



THE  
**Young**  
BELIEVERS

**AN ISLAMIC YOUTH PERIODICAL**



**IN FOCUS**

Muslim Youth  
Be a Force to Be  
Reckoned With!



**QUR'AN  
REFLECTIONS**

Like a Donkey  
Carrying Books!



**FIQH FUNDAS**

Deen Vs Duniya:  
Ending the Internal  
Tug-of-War



**PLANET PULSE**

Why Teen Leadership  
Matters More  
Than Ever?

**RECLAIMING THOUGHT IN THE AGE  
OF ALGORITHMS**





## OUR MISSION

### Empowering the Next Generation of Muslims

A periodical dedicated to the thinkers, the seekers, and the change-makers of the Muslim youth.

In a world that is moving faster than ever, young Muslims often find themselves at a crossroads between their faith and the modern world. At *The Young Believers*, our mission is to show that you don't have to choose between the two.

And we noticed something challenging: Most of the "advice" out there for Muslim youth is either too kiddish or academic ones unsuitable for youngsters. There was no middle ground. So, we built one. We provided this space where timeless Islamic wisdom meets the realities of Gen Z and Gen Alpha life.

We believe Islam is more than just a checklist of rituals; it is a lens through which we view the world. While we value the beauty of prayer and fasting, we aim to go deeper – transforming how you think, speak, and act. Our content is designed to help you let the Deen ignite your spirit and guide your daily choices, from the way you interact on social media to the way you view global history.

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# Are You Educated Or Knowledgeable?

We often confuse knowledge with education. We measure knowledge by certificates earned, books read, lectures attended, and verses memorized. We fill notebooks and hard drives and think ourselves as learned. The below saying should shake every student, every scholar, and every person who has ever sat in a classroom or a mosque:

***"Knowledge is not the memorization of texts. It's a light that Allah places in the heart."***

*Nur* is not acquired through effort alone. It is not the reward of a sharp memory or a fast mind. It is something Allah swt casts, يَفْقِدُهُ, like casting light into a dark room, into the heart of the person who has prepared themselves to receive it.

**What does that preparation look like?** The heart must be emptied before it can be filled. Sins create rust on the heart, and rusted surfaces never shine! The student must begin not with books but with tawbah, sincere repentance. They must loosen their grip on the world, on status, and on the need to be seen as knowledgeable. They must sit before their teacher in humility and adab (manner) like a patient before a physician, willing to be told what is wrong with them.

Only when the heart is clean, humble, and sincere toward Allah swt does knowledge penetrate... It becomes *Nur*. Light. And light, by its nature, does not sit in the heart, it reflects; it illuminates everything around it. It shows you the way to the right and wrong. It produces *khashyah* (fear) of Allah swt. We are arguably the most informed generation in human history. And yet knowledge is rare! And the light described above, Allah's *Nur* turns a person into someone truly knowledgeable, righteous, and pious.

The solution is not to read less. It is to seek knowledge not to show the world, but for Allah swt. To let what you learn guide your behavior and the choices and decisions you make in your life. To measure your education not by what you know but by how much closer it has brought you to your Lord Allah swt.

**When information becomes knowledge, knowledge becomes light.**

# Muslim Youth: Be a Force to Be Reckoned With!



## You are a vicegerent of Allah swt...

Yes, I know... sometimes you feel your life is at 2x speed?

Juggling between exams, assignments, and social life, and trying to figure out who you are, as university and high school years fly by. This is that rare window where the world cuts you some slack to "find yourself."

But as a Muslim, you've got a bigger mission than securing marks or gaining fancy job title. In no way am I undermining your academic achievements, but to make you understand, your marks or your medals are your steps to a ladder leading you to a higher purpose.

You are a vicegerent, Allah's ambassador on Earth. Your goal? To become an intellectual and spiritual powerhouse using your talents for something that benefits the people.

On a serious note, if you truly knew the power you hold, you wouldn't waste another second doing mindless scrolling, on vain entertainment and chasing cars on screen!

During the time of the Prophet ﷺ and Salaf As-Salih (righteous predecessors) that followed, children weren't fed shallow superhero fantasies; they weren't raised on empty entertainment, they were prepared with purpose and vision. Prepared for what?

**To be resilient in the face of hardship; patient when being tested; courageous when others fled; fearless when speaking the truth.**

They were prepared to carry the weight of responsibility not someday, but now. Not when they were older, but while they were still young.

They didn't recite the Qur'an out of routine. They lived it. They absorbed every word, every command, every lesson and let it reshape who they were.



The same Qur'an that once illuminated the dark alleys of Makkah; the same Book that transformed a society (Madinah) drenched in bloodshed into a beacon of justice and mercy. The same revelation that sparked a revolution across continents and changed the course of human history.

**That Qur'an is still here. Still unchanged. Still powerful.**

**So why isn't it lighting our path now?**

Why isn't it changing the conditions we see around us, be it the poverty in Africa, the genocide in Gaza, or the injustice spreading like wildfire?

Let me tell you why.

Because we stopped understanding it.

Is it possible to pass your Boards exams only by keeping a stack of books on your shelf, never opening them, never understanding them?

**Somewhere along the way, something shifted.**

The youth, who were once the backbone of movements, the architects of change, started being treated like children who needed to be entertained.

Kept busy. Kept quiet.

And slowly, you lost sight of your potential.

But here's the truth they don't want you to realize: it was deliberate.

It was a calculated move to keep you distracted, to drain your energy on things that don't matter, to destroy your personality, and to stop you from becoming the torchbearers of this Ummah.

**They offered you fun when you were searching for purpose.**

**They offered you Spiderman when you were searching for Salahuddin Ayyubi.**

**They offered you feminism when you were searching for Khadija.**

**You are not small. You are not "just a teenager."  
You have potential inside you that the world hasn't even seen yet. You have the strength to rise above what's expected and redefine what's possible.**



**They fed you distractions because they feared what you could become if you ever woke up!**

You are not weak. You are not small. You are not "just a teenager."

You have potential burning inside you that the world hasn't even seen yet.

You have the strength to rise above what's expected and redefine what's possible.

You have the Qur'an as your companion: The same Book that raised empires and destroyed tyrants.

You have the life of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ as your guide: The ultimate example of courage, mercy, leadership, and sacrifice.

With these two in your hands, you don't just have the tools to survive this world, you have everything you need to change it.

**The question is: Will You?**

Will you settle for being entertained, or will you rise to your true purpose?

Will you be a passive observer, or will you be the generation that brings the revolution this world desperately needs?

**The choice is yours.**

**And the time is now.**



# Like a Donkey Carrying Books!

You might have many “saves” on your phone? You bookmark that workout routine, that study hack, or those Studygram productivity tips, and then you never look at them again! You have the information saved, but your life hasn't actually changed for the better. That's the warning Allah swt gives in Surah Jumuah [62:5]

**مَثَلُ الَّذِينَ حُمِّلُوا التَّوْرَةَ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَحْمِلُوهَا كَمَثَلِ الْجِمَارِ يَحْمِلُ أَسْفَارًا بِئْسَ مَثَلُ الْقَوْمِ الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا آيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ**  
*“The example of those who were entrusted with the Torah and then did not take it on is like that of a donkey who carries volumes [of books]. Wretched is the example of the people who deny the signs of Allah. And Allah does not guide the wrongdoing people.”*

Allah swt compares people who were given knowledge (Revelation) but didn't act on it to a donkey carrying a massive stack of books. The donkey is literally carrying the weight of

the knowledge, but it has zero clue what's inside. It's just doing the labor without reaping the benefits. It's a brutal but super important reality check: Knowledge isn't just about collecting data or memorizing lines; it's about application.

### Why the "Why" Matters?

Have you noticed how often the Quran asks, *أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ* (Do you not reason?) and *أَلَمْ تَعْلَمَ* (Did you not know?) It's not just a rhetorical question.

It's a prompt to use your intellect ('aql). Allah swt blessed us with the ability to think, reason, and choose. Allah swt gave us the ability to think so we can see the truth for ourselves. When you read the Qur'an, it shouldn't be about finishing a page; it's about letting the words hit your heart and rethinking your direction based on what you find.

### Which Subscriber-Tier Are You?

When it comes to how the Quran hits us, people usually

**Knowledge doesn't disappear because the books vanish; it disappears when people stop living the message. If we treat the Qur'an like a textbook we leave on the shelf, or a "save" on our phone that we never open, we aren't really holding onto the knowledge. We're just carrying it like a donkey.**



fall into three categories:

### 1. The "Ulul Albab" (The Deep Thinkers)

These are the people with sound intellect (saleemul 'aql) and sound disposition (saleemul fitrat) who understand and reach the truth by themselves through contemplation, and seek practical guidance with regards to actions. They don't wait for someone to tell them what's right; they naturally gravitate toward it. They're like people who have figured out the mechanics and excel at it because they make every move with intention.

These are people like Abu Bakr (RA), Salman al Farsi (RA), Luqman (AS).

Even before they found Islam, they knew certain things were wrong, and never were they engaged in the rampant evil practices of their time.

For them, the Qur'an was the final piece of the puzzle.

### 2. The Negligent or Distracted

This is where most of our times land. These people have some potential, but they're living life on autopilot mode. They have "veils" over their hearts, not because they're bad people, but because they're negligent. Their hearts are covered by a thin veil of "I'll do it later" or "I'm too busy with school/exams."

For them, the Qur'an is a reminder and a wake-up call to finally pay attention and clear those veils.

### 3. The Arrogant

These are the people who have let their egos and desires build a wall. They aren't looking for the truth; they're looking to justify what they

want to do. They've lost their sense of logic because they only care about what feels good right now. For them, the Qur'an isn't a guide, it is a proof, an argument, and the final piece of evidence (إِتْمَامُ الْحُجَّةِ), so they do not have an excuse for themselves on the Judgment Day.

**The Warning: Don't Lose the Knowledge** ذَهَابِ **الْقُرْآنِ وَالْعِلْمِ**: There's a powerful Hadith where the Prophet (PBUH) mentions a time when knowledge will "disappear."

Ziyad ibn Labid reported: The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "There will be a time when knowledge disappears.

Ziyad said, "O Messenger of Allah, how can knowledge disappear when we read the Qur'an and will teach it to our children until the Day of Resurrection?"

The Prophet said: "May your mother be bereft of you, Ziyad! I thought you were the wisest man in Madinah. Do not these Jews and Christians read the Torah and the Gospel, but they do not act upon what is in them?"

[Sunan Ibn Mājah 4048]

The Prophet's (pbuh) answer was a reality check: He pointed out that other nations had their revelations too, but they didn't act on them.

**Here is the core truth:** Knowledge doesn't disappear because the books vanish; it disappears when people stop living the message. If we treat the Qur'an like a textbook we leave on the shelf, or a "save" on our phone that we never open, we aren't really holding onto the knowledge. We're carrying it like a donkey.

The Qur'an is the highest form of knowledge we have. It can either be a shield that protects us or a witness against us on the Day of Judgment.

Are you improving your character with what you already know, or are you only "carrying the books" like the donkey?

**Ask yourself:** Is there one thing I've read or learned recently that I'm not actually practicing?

Pick one small habit, maybe it's how you talk to your parents, how you handle stress, or how you spend your time and try to change it for a day based on what you know is right.

**Don't just carry the book; live the page.**

# Seeking Knowledge That Guides

Jabir reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said:

سَلُوا اللَّهَ عِلْمًا نَافِعًا وَتَعَوَّدُوا بِاللَّهِ مِنْ عِلْمٍ لَا يَنْفَعُ  
**Ask Allah for beneficial knowledge and seek refuge in Allah from knowledge without benefit.**  
 (Source: Sunan Ibn Mājah 3843)

We all know that the Messenger of Allah (SAW) has made it incumbent upon every Muslim man and women to acquire knowledge. In Islam, ignorance (jahil) is no blessing, rather, it is cursed and seeking knowledge is made an obligation (fard).

Knowledge is any ilm, whether it is medicine, mathematics or tafsir which guides you to know Allah swt, to worship Him correctly, and to return to Him successfully. However, what most people miss out on is that Islam categorizes knowledge into two (no, it's certainly not Islamic and Worldly as generally assumed because Deen came to regulate your Duniya).

The classification of knowledge as Islamic or worldly is alien to Islam.

In Islam, knowledge is of two types:

**Beneficial Knowledge:** All knowledge is Islamic knowledge if it is beneficial for mankind, i.e., Astronomy, Medicine, Economics, Politics etc.

- When you are a doctor, your purpose is to serve the ill genuinely, and being aware of halal and haram medical practices. Ibn Sina, one of the earliest physicians, wrote a medical encyclopaedia, which was used as a standard textbook in Europe and the Muslim world for over 600 years.
- When you are an engineer or scientist, you're someone who think about benefitting the Ummah and mankind through your skills. Al-Jazari, one of the greatest mechanical engineers. His work laid foundations for later mechanical engineering and robotics.
- When you are a businessman, you understand the rules of trade; you don't cheat or trample people's rights but spend your wealth for the sake of the ummah. Remember Abdur Rahman Ibn Awf RA? It was said, "The whole city eats from the plate of 'Abdur Rahman Ibn 'Awf:" because he fed people regularly, he

sponsored the poor and widows, he financed Islamic expeditions, and he gave massive amounts in charity.

Indeed, wealth in Islam is not condemned, attachment to wealth is!

**Non-Beneficial Knowledge:** Knowledge that does not benefit or harms the mankind is rejected, i.e., Astrology, Magic etc.

It is said that the most meritorious knowledge is that in keeping with one's standing, and the most meritorious action is to maintain one's standing. And, Islam gives you just that. It has come to teach mankind the adaab (etiquettes) of every action with which one could benefit from this world which has been created for man's service.

Our great Islamic scholar, Muhammad ibn al Hasan (RahmatullahiAlayh) was once asked to write a book on asceticism. He replied, "I have composed a book on commerce", meaning that the true ascetic is he who is careful to protect himself and the society against dubious and unjust practices in regards to money and wealth. The same applies to all other branches of knowledge. Anyone who works in a given field is duty bound to learn how to guard against what is unjust and forbidden therein. Allah swt taught Adam (AS) and sent Prophets to teach mankind the beneficial knowledge and how to apply that knowledge in our daily affairs.

This is also obligatory with knowledge of the conditions of the heart, such as complete reliance on Allah knowing that He is The Master of all, repentance, fear, satisfaction with Allah's decree etc., for this applies to people of every walk of life. This keeps one's behaviour in check. Islam teaches us about the world and beyond this world. It is a means through which nature of the propounded subject becomes clear. So, one must seek out what is beneficial, while avoiding what is harmful to one's own soul and to society, lest one's intelligence and knowledge becomes weapons against him. May Allah protect us, May we seek knowledge that elevates us in this world and the hereafter! Ameen!

# Deen Vs Duniya: Ending the Internal Tug-of-War

Someone once asked, "Why should I acquire knowledge?" At first, it came as a shock; like, isn't it obvious? Think again, and the realization hits, it is a fair question! Why spend the energy? In Islam, seeking knowledge isn't just a "good idea" but is an obligation.

So, what is the purpose of seeking knowledge?

The purpose of knowledge, be it medicine, mathematics, or fiqh, is that you recognize your Rabb, Allah swt; it helps you in getting closer to Him and prepares you for your meeting with Him. The fruit of knowledge is to develop yourself into an Islamic personality with impeccable *adaab* and *akhlaq*.

If your knowledge doesn't change how you act, it's clutter in your brain.

And knowledge that does not lead you closer to Allah swt is a distraction.

Real knowledge doesn't just sit there; it transforms you. If you've been studying for years but your ego is still huge, your temper is still short, and your character hasn't improved, you've collected "data," not knowledge.

**Real knowledge produces:**

- **Fear of Allah (khashyah)**
- **Humility (tawadu)**
- **Detachment from the world (zuhd)**
- **Longing for the hereafter (shawq lil-akhirah)**
- **Watchfulness over the heart (muraqabah)**

**Know your Nafs** (self/inner consciousness).

One of the greatest pieces of knowledge is to understand

your own nafs. To know what benefits our nafs in this duniya and the next so that we seek what benefits and avoid what harms. Before you can master any subject, you have to master your nafs. You can't be ignorant and be "chill" about your own weaknesses.

Only when you know exactly where your stats are low, where your weaknesses lie, will you be able to strengthen them.

- Understand your triggers.
- Recognize your lazy habits.
- Seek what actually benefits you and mute the stuff that harms your soul.

The Qur'an addresses the nafs and its profound effects on human conduct.

The three kinds of nafs mentioned in the Qur'an are:

**Nafs-al-Ammarah** (lower self)- which inclines one towards base desires;

**Nafs-al-Lawwamah** (reproaching self) the conscience that reproaches the self after sinning.

**Nafs-al-Mutmainnah** (content self) which one reaches using knowledge.

**The Bogus Logic: Deen or Duniya?**

Deen came to regulate your duniya; how can they be separated? The classification of knowledge as Islamic or worldly knowledge is alien to Islam.

They are two sides of the same coin.

The knowledge of Quran, Sunnah and Fiqh guides your heart. It gives you purpose, direction, and accountability. It is the foundation on which other knowledge rests.

Knowledge of medicine and engineering equips your hands. It gives you skills, solutions, and impact. And without foundational knowledge of Qur'an and Sunnah, it collapses.

**Never Ask:** Should I focus on Deen or Duniya?

**Ask Yourself:** How as a doctor, engineer or scientist can I serve my deen?

**When we stop learning Fiqh, we lose our "guide." We start guessing how to handle relationships, money, and politics based on whatever is trending on TikTok instead of what Allah swt actually wants for us.**



### Fiqh: The Shield of a Believer

In the Islamic tradition, learning isn't for gifted kids or scholars; it's a must for everyone.

As a Muslim, you're not expected to know everything. But you're expected to learn what applies to your life.

It's knowing the rules of things you do in your daily life.

Here is the breakdown of your "Learning Requirements":

#### Fard ul-Ayn (Individual Duty):

You must know the rules for the things you actually do. For example, if you're going into business or starting a side hustle, you need to know the rules of trade so that you don't get scammed or become the scammer. You can't just wing it and hope for the best.

If you're fasting, you need to know the rules of sawm, when to fast, how to fast, and what nullifies it.

If you are praying salah, you need to know the rulings of prayer, the pre-requisites, the obligations, and the nullifiers.

#### Fard ul-Kifaya (Communal Duty):

As long as some people in the world are doing this, the rest of us are off the hook.

For example:

- **Becoming a scholar** who knows about the rulings of Islam and is able to issue fatawa.

- **Leading Salat ul Janaza:** If some people in the community know and do it, we are not accountable.

#### The Power of a "Faqih"

In Islamic tradition, there's a specific type of expert called a Faqih. While a lot of people might know the basics of the "what", a Faqih understands the "why" and the "how" behind it.

The Prophet (saw) said: "The one for whom Allah wills good, He grants him Fiqh (deep understanding) in the Deen." Basically, if you're learning Fiqh, it's a sign Allah swt wants you to succeed.

According to Imam Hasan Al-Shaybani, "A person who has knowledge of the rulings (ahkam) related to his actions is more severe against shaytan than a thousand worshippers."

Here is why Fuqaha are the strongest shield against misinformation:

- **They aren't just "self-improving":** A Faqih doesn't just keep their knowledge to themselves like a private

playlist. They actively work to elevate the whole community.

- **They're "Fake News"**

**Detectors:** By teaching others, they remove the ignorance that allows doubt to creep in. It's a lot harder to get scammed or misled when you actually know the rules of the game.

- **They are "Severe" on Evil:**

They block the path for negativity and confusion before it even has a chance to start trending.

We live in an era of peak skepticism. Doubts and "what ifs" are everywhere, in our group chats, our comments sections, and even in our own heads. A Faqih acts like a troubleshooter for the mind. By providing clarity, they make it nearly impossible for "evil" (or just plain bad advice) to take root.

However, in the last couple of centuries, some people tried to make Fiqh look "boring" or "outdated" to disconnect Muslims from their way of life. The Reality? When we stop learning Fiqh, we lose our "guide." We start guessing how to handle relationships, money, and politics based on whatever is trending on TikTok instead of what Allah swt actually wants for us.

**Your Challenge:** You don't need to become a Mufti overnight. But knowing the "why" and "how" behind your actions changes everything. What is one topic (like Islamic finance, history, etc) that you've been avoiding because it seems hard? Look into the "hows" and "whys" behind it.



# Are You Carrying the Qur'an or Is the Qur'an Carrying You?

Allah SWT asks us a direct question in Surah Muhammad, ayah 24,

أَفَلَا يَتَدَبَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ أَمْ عَلَى قُلُوبٍ أَقْفَالُهَا

*“Do they not then think deeply in the Qur'an, or are their hearts locked up?”*

The Qur'an is everywhere. It's on Spotify, YouTube, and you probably have 2-3 different Qur'an apps sitting on your home screens. You've become good at accessing the Qur'an and making it sound beautiful, but you're failing at the one thing that changes your lives: understanding it.

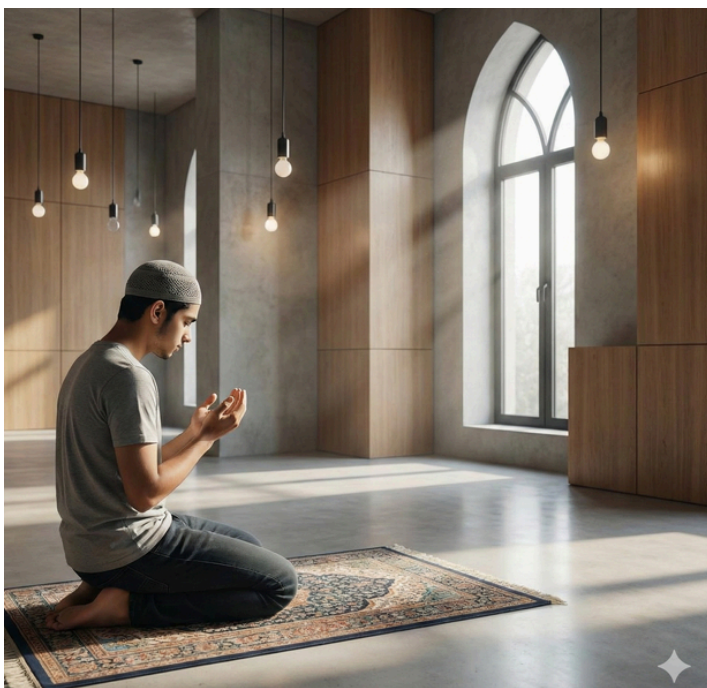
The Sahabah didn't just recite the Qur'an; they lived it. They had a special connection with the Qur'an called **Tadabbur** (deep contemplation). Why are you falling behind? You want to upgrade everything in your life, from your wardrobe to gadgets; is it not important to

upgrade your relationship with the Qur'an too from “passive listening” to “active engagement?”

## Can You Play Without Knowing the Controls?

The Prophet SAW warned us about a time when knowledge would disappear. The Sahabah were confused as to how knowledge could disappear if we have the Qur'an with us. Because we stopped understanding the message.

- **The “Illiterates” of Our Time:** You can be a genius at reading and memorizing, but if you don't know what you are reading, you are spiritually “illiterate.”
- **The Decor Trouble:** Abu Darda (ra) said that when we start focusing more on decorating our mosques and making our Qur'an look fancy rather than reading them, we are in for a great trouble.
- **Food For Thought:** If you have a gold-plated



manual for a complex machine, but you never open it to learn how to run the machine, the manual is useless to you.

### What is Tadabbur?

Tadabbur is the key that unlocks your heart. It's not about reciting for rewards; it's about letting the words hit your soul. It's the difference between skimming a textbook five minutes before a test and understanding the subject. When you contemplate, you understand, things change for you. Your lens through which you view the world suddenly becomes clearer. You start fearing Allah swt out of your love for Him swt. You let the Qur'an guide you in your daily affairs no matter what you do or where you go. Starting from your career, profession, relationships, to your transactions, your sole reference point becomes the Qur'an.

Your Deen would not be limited to beard and cap! Wherever you go, you would enlighten and benefit people.

### But I Don't Know Arabic!

Valid Excuse. But here's the solution:

- **Don't wait:** You don't wait to become fluent in Turkish to watch Ertugrul (you use subtitles, right?) Do the same here.
- **The Strategy:** Read the translation. Read the Tafsir (explanation). Get the message now while you work on learning Arabic for better understanding.
- **Effort = Reward:** If you struggle to understand because you want to get closer to Allah SWT,

that struggle itself is worship.

### Climb Up The Ladder

Advice on how to actually do this.

#### 1. Quality > Quantity

Stop trying to speedrun the Qur'an.

- The Prophet SAW warned against people who "read the Qur'an in the way they drink milk. The words merely slide off their tongues just as milk hastily slides down the throat." Meaning they gulp it down so fast, they neither get the taste nor get proper nourishment; likewise they read the Qur'an without pondering and reflecting over its meaning and laws.
- Reading one page with understanding is better than speed-reading a whole Juz with your mind drifting to what you're going to eat for dinner.

#### 2. Be An Active Reader

Look how Shaytan has fooled you! He never snatched the Qur'an from your hands, he tweaked you!

He left the Qur'an in your hands to read and but stripped you of its soul.

Though it's between your hands, it neither benefits you nor do you have the knowledge of it... So, don't be a passive consumer. Engage with the text.

- **Ask Questions:** "Who were the "People of the cave?" Why did Allah SWT mention them, and how is it still relevant to your life as GenZ and Alpha?"

#### 3. Live It

The Qur'an is a book that covers every subject from history, sociology, psychology, economics, civics, science, to geography, and literature!

It's the code of conduct for your life. The goal is to build a personality that doesn't only know Islam but lives Islam.

**Action for Today:** Open the Mushaf or your Qur'an app to the last Surah you recited in prayer. Read the translation. Find one command or one lesson in it that you didn't know before, and try following it.

# The Book That Invented Your Smartphones!



You scroll through your social media, click pictures with your phone's camera, or use 'quarantine' during illness to save yourself and others... the blueprints for the algorithms running your apps, the lenses in your camera, and the medical concept of 'quarantine' were all pioneered centuries ago.

Have you noticed how in school, your history classes often jump straight from the ancient Greeks to the European Renaissance? Nobody seems to talk about the massive 1,000-year gap in the middle. Today, we're looking at how the Islamic Golden Age filled that gap, acting as the server that kept human progress online while the rest of the Western world was buffering.

## Europe Vs Cordoba

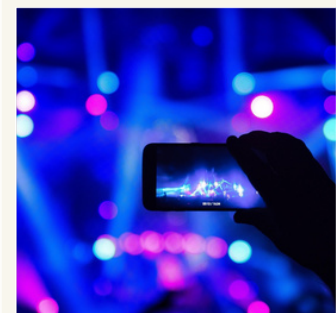
While Europe was struggling, the Islamic world was witnessing scientific advancements the world never knew. The arrival of Islam in Spain in the 7th century after Tariq Ibn Ziyad opened the gates of Al-Andalus to Muslims brought peace, security, and tolerance to the region, thus creating the perfect environment for a thriving civilization. Historian Victor Robinson painted a wild contrast between medieval

```

input;
th, in;
iTemp;
n = true;

gain {
  -1;
  f = false;
  inc(cin, sInput);
  set("cls");
  stream(sInput) >> dbTemp;
  gth = sInput.length();
  iLength < 4 {
    again = true;
    continue;
    se if (sInput[iLength - 3] != '.') {
      again = true;
      continue;
    }
    iIn (++iIn < iLength) {
      if (isDigit(sInput[iIn])) {
        continue;
      }
      } else if (iIn == (iLength - 3)) {
    }
  }
}

```



Words like algebra (from "al-jabr"), algorithm (from Al-Khwarizmi's name), and alchemy come from Arabic. Even the numbers (1, 2, 3...) are Arabic numerals! Look at a star map, and you'll see Arabic names everywhere like Vega, Altair, and Betelgeuse.

Ibn al-Haytham, inspired by the Qur'an invented the scientific method: observing a problem, making a hypothesis, running an experiment, and analyzing the data. Using this method, he wrote *The Book of Optics*, proving how light enters the eye.

Europe and Islamic Spain (specifically the city of Cordoba):

- While Europe was in the dark, Córdoba had public street lamps.
- While Europe was dealing with terrible hygiene, Cordoba had over a thousand public baths.
- While Europe's nobility couldn't even sign their own names, Cordoba's children went to school, and their teachers built massive libraries.

### The Historical Hall of Fame

Muslim scholars were dropping discoveries that shape our school subjects today:

**Al-Khwarizmi:** The grandfather of computer science. He developed algebra and the concept of algorithms (which literally powers TikTok and Instagram today).

**Az-Zahrawi:** The father of modern surgery. He invented surgical tools and internal stitching materials that doctors still use.

**Al-Sufi:** An astronomer who made the first recorded observation of the Andromeda Galaxy (the first galaxy spotted outside our own Milky Way).

**Ibn Sina:** The father of modern medicine. He was the first to figure out how viral and bacterial infections spread and introduced the idea of quarantine to stop contagious diseases.

**Did you know?** You speak a little Arabic every day! Words like algebra (from "al-jabr"), algorithm (from Al-Khwarizmi's name), and alchemy come from Arabic. Even the numbers you type on your keyboard (1, 2, 3...) are Arabic numerals! Look at a star map, and you'll see Arabic names everywhere like Vega, Altair, and Betelgeuse.

### The One and Only, Qur'an

So, how did the Muslims go on to become the world's leading scientists?

It all comes back to one thing: the Qur'an.

The first word revealed to Prophet Muḥammad was "Read!" Out of everything Allah swt could have said first, the focus was placed on knowledge. The Qur'an constantly pushes Muslims to:

- Use their senses to observe the world (mountains, stars, biology).
- Think critically about what they see, rather than just accepting things blindly.

- Test their ideas and bring witnesses to validate conclusions (it's the only religious text that actually challenges its readers to run "falsification tests").

Enter a 10th-century Muslim scholar named Ibn al-Haytham. Inspired by the Qur'an to seek truth, he decided that everything must be proven through experimentation. He invented the scientific method: observing a problem, making a hypothesis, running an experiment, and analyzing the data.

Using this method, he wrote *The Book of Optics*, proving how light enters the eye. Without Ibn al-Haytham, you wouldn't have eyeglasses, telescopes, or the camera on your phone!

### Rebooting Europe

Eventually, the knowledge from the Islamic world trickled down to Europe between the 10th and 13th centuries.

When Europe translated these Arabic texts into Latin, it brought the much-talked-about Renaissance (the rebirth). Europe adopted everything from Muslim universities and mass literacy to windmills, soap, street lights, and paper production.

**Take a second to trace it all back:** From the Qur'an came a push for justice and peace. From that peace came the freedom to think and explore. From that exploration came the preservation and upgrade of knowledge, which eventually pulled Europe out of the Dark Ages.

It's completely reasonable to say that the modern, tech-driven world you live in today, your smartphones, internet, space travel are a direct chain reaction from those historical breakthroughs inspired by the Qur'an.

**From the Qur'an came a push for justice and peace. From that peace came the freedom to think and explore. From that exploration came the preservation and upgrade of knowledge, which eventually pulled Europe out of the Dark Ages!**



# The Story of A Young Jurist

Can you dare leave your home at 12 years old to chase your goal? No money, no phone, no backup plan, just two old blankets and a ton of ambition!

This is not the backstory of an anime protagonist; it's the real-life story of Muhammad bin Idrees, better known as Imam Al-Shafi'i, one of the greatest jurists and scholars in Islamic history. His story is remembered for his dedication despite hardships, having a visionary mother, and his great service to the ummah through his remarkable contributions. One of his greatest contributions was organizing the principles of Islamic jurisprudence. He built the intellectual foundation of Islamic jurisprudence that still guides the Muslims today.

## The Light in His Heart

Born in Gaza in 150 Hijri, Al-Shafi'i lost his father when he was only two years old. His mother knew that to give her son the best education, she needed to upgrade their environment. So, she moved to Makkah, the hub of knowledge at the time.

Imam Shafi'i didn't just study; he speed-ran his education:

- **Age 7:** Memorized the entire Qur'an.
- **Age 10:** Memorized Imam Malik's Muwatta (a complex book of Hadith).

- **He was so brilliant** that his teacher would actually leave 10-year-old Al-Shafi'i in charge to teach the class when he was away!
- **Age 15:** Al-Shafi'i was authorized to issue rulings (give fatwa).

## No Excuse, Please!

Imam Shafi'i might be an exemplary figure in Islam, but his origin story is revolutionary in making zero excuses! Here is how his mom helped him achieve greatness using literally nothing:

- **The "Ignored Student:"** When his mom first sent him to study, the teachers ignored him. Why? Because he wasn't a paying student.
- **Speaking Through Manners:** Instead of getting angry, his mom gave him a strategy: Show the most flawless, top-tier manners in class. She told him to be so respectful and engaged that no teacher could ever find a reason to complain about him.
- **The Photographic Memory:** When Imam Shafi'i told his mom he couldn't take notes because he didn't have paper or ink. She told him to use his brain. Because he was forced to rely entirely on his mind, this became the origin of his famous photographic memory.

**He literally “recorded” lectures in his head!**

**The Hardest Goodbye**

As Imam Shafi’i grew, he heard about Imam Malik, a great scholar living in Madinah. At 12, he found a caravan heading there and begged his mom to let him go. His mother was heartbroken because she had no money to fund his trip. But with immense faith she pulled out her only possessions, two old Yemeni blankets.

She hugged him and said, *“Go, my son. May Allah make you a shining star in the heavens of knowledge. He is The Ultimate Protector and Caretaker.”*

**Imam Malik, His Teacher**

In Madinah, Imam Malik was blown away by the kid’s photographic memory and sharp intellect. Imam Shafi’i spent years learning under him.

**The Big Promotion**

After his teacher Imam Malik passed away, Imam Shafi’i moved to Yemen after he got a huge opportunity to serve as the governor of a region called Najran. He took the job and ruled with absolute justice.

**Dealing with Toxic Haters:** This is the thing about playing fair: people who are used to cheating hate it. The corrupt people in Najran couldn’t stand Imam Shafi’i’s ethics. So, these troublemakers hatched a plan to remove him. They traveled all the way to Caliph Harun al-Rashid and framed Imam Shafi’i with false allegations.

**Summoned to the Royal Court:** Imam Shafi’i was dragged to the Caliph’s court in Baghdad,

Iraq to stand trial; it was like being called to the principal’s office, but the stakes here were life and death!

Imam al-Shafi’i stood his ground.

- **He knew his truth:** He had full trust that Allah SWT was on his side.
- **He spoke up:** He put forward a flawless, eloquent defense.

The Caliph was convinced and incredibly impressed by Imam Shafi’i. The liars faced the ultimate consequence (execution), and Imam Shafi’i walked away with his reputation and influence soaring higher than ever before.

To a regular person, getting dragged across the Islamic empire to stand trial looks like trouble and an unnecessary distraction from his studies and work. But with the right mindset, you see Allah SWT’s hand in everything. What seemed like a nightmare was the event that put Imam Shafi’i on the map in front of the world. It elevated his status.

We all have moments that feel like a complete roadblock. But hindsight is 20/20!

**The Homecoming**

Years later, when his mother was passing away, Imam Shafi’i wept, saying he wished he had spent more time serving her. Her final response perfectly summed up her visionary mindset: “My son, never for one day did I raise you to serve me.” Indeed, she raised him to serve the Muslim Ummah.

**Next time you face a setback, ask yourself:** Is this a roadblock, or is Allah SWT using this moment to set me up for a bigger win?

**When Imam Shafi’i’s mother was passing away, Imam Shafi’i wept, saying he wished he had spent more time serving her. Her final response perfectly summed up her visionary mindset: “My son, never for one day did I raise you to serve me.” Indeed, she raised him to serve the Muslim Ummah.**

# A Symbol of Intellectual Survival in Gaza



## NEWS

Two Palestinians, Omar Hamad and Ibrahim, are leading an effort to build what is described as Gaza's first new public library since the latest war. With schools and cultural centers destroyed, the project seeks book donations and financial funding. As much of Gaza lies in ruins, restoring access to books is a symbol of intellectual and moral resilience.

## ANALYSIS

The first revelation was, "**Read**" (Qur'an 96:1) Pause for a moment. Islam began with literacy. For Muslim youth, this should be shocking in the best way. Our faith was launched with a command to engage the mind. So when a community rebuilds a library after devastation, it is not merely restoring shelves; it is responding to the very first word of the revelation.

During the Golden Age of Islam, libraries were not luxuries; they were lifelines. In Baghdad, scholars gathered at the *Bayt al-Hikma (The House of Wisdom)* where books from across the world were translated and studied. Subjects like mathematics, astronomy, medicine, and philosophy flourished.

Books were copied by hand. Ink was precious. Knowledge required sacrifice. Today, we download PDFs in seconds. We scroll more than we read. We skim more than we reflect.

Prophet Muhammad saw said, "When a person dies, their deeds end except for three: ongoing charity, beneficial knowledge, or a righteous child who prays for them."

(Sahih Muslim) When libraries are destroyed, rebuilding them becomes an act of faith. It reminds the ummah that preserving knowledge is preserving the future.

One day, that new library may open its doors. Children may sit at desks again. Teenagers may prepare for exams again. But the deeper rebuilding must also happen within us.

Because the true library of the Ummah is not only buildings, it is minds.

The first word revealed still echoes across centuries: "**Read.**"

And perhaps the real question for our generation is not whether a library will be built in Gaza, but whether we will rise to become a generation worthy of it.

# Why Teen Leadership Matters More Than Ever?



## NEWS

In South Australia, *The Advertiser's Teen Parliament 2026* showcased something important, they presented big ideas to change the future of the country. 10-12 young students standing before political leaders spoke boldly about issues related to domestic violence, mental health, housing stress, and economic pressure.

## ANALYSIS

For Muslims, this should feel familiar because Islam has always believed in the power of youth. Today, young people are often told to wait their

turn. Get older. Get more experience. Then lead. Youth is not a waiting room. It is a launching pad. Energy. Courage. Idealism. Sincerity are not weaknesses, they are assets. And Islam channels them toward justice and reform.

The participants challenged leaders on domestic violence policies, mental health gaps, and social inequality. It aligns deeply with Islamic teachings. The Prophet ﷺ said: "The best jihad is a word of truth spoken before a tyrant ruler." (Sunan al-Nasa'i)

And Allah commands:

*"O you who believe! Stand firmly for justice, as witnesses for Allah..."* (Qur'an 4:135)

Islam calls for justice. Silence in the face of harm is not piety, it's cowardice.

History proves that youth are never too young to lead.

- **Ali ibn Abi Talib (RA)** embraced Islam when he was 9 years old.
- **Usama ibn Zayd (RA)** was appointed commander of Muslim army when he was barely 17 years old.
- **Mus'ab Ibn Umair (RA)** was 23 years old when he opened Madinah for Islam.
- **Muhammad Al-Fatih was 21** when he conquered Constantinople (now Istanbul).

The companions were younger than many university students today when they submitted to revelation, defended the Prophet SAW, and stood for Islam with everything they had.

*"Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is within themselves."* (Qur'an 13:11)

Change begins with internal reform, character, discipline, sincerity. But it does not end there. It moves outward into community, institutions, and policies. It is a reminder of something Islam taught 1,400 years ago: when youth rise, revolution happens.



**“A little action with knowledge is far more beneficial than a lot of action with ignorance.”**

**~ Imam Abu Hanifa**

This isn't something new that actions are measured by quantity. How many rakah did you pray? How many pages of the Qur'an did you finish reading in Ramadan? How many nafil fasts do you observe? How many lectures did you attend? so on and so forth...

These are not wrong questions. But what Imam Abu Hanifa is pointing to here goes deeper.

A single prayer performed with correct understanding of its conditions is worth more in the scales of Allah swt than a thousand prayers performed out of habit, imitation, or blind ritual.

A man who has less and gives one dirham in charity, remembering the quote of Uthman RA “Your charity is not accepted until you believe I need the reward more than the beggar needs the money” has done more than the man who empties his wallet arrogantly or without understanding the concept of sadaqah and how it benefits us as believers.

This is why the Prophet ﷺ said: "The superiority of the scholar over the worshipper is like the superiority of the moon over the rest of the stars." Not because worship is unimportant. But because a scholar's worship is done by knowledge and understanding, which illuminates him and his surroundings.

As we are drowning in religious activities, spiritual content, and online courses, Imam Abu Hanifa poses a valid question: Do you know why you are doing what you are doing?

If your answer is yes, your act is a light. If no then all your busyness is nothing more than a veil between you and the very Lord you believe you are worshipping!



## QUIZ OF THE MONTH

Which is considered the highest source of knowledge in Islam?

- A. Revelation (Wahy)
- B. Ijma As-Sahabah
- C. Sahih Hadith
- D. Qiyas (Reasoning)

E-mail your entries with the correct answer along with your name, and city to [theyoungbelievers24@gmail.com](mailto:theyoungbelievers24@gmail.com)  
 The names of first 3 correct entries will be published in the magazine Insha'Allah

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6 Months	15	15	280	250
1 Year	28	28	600	500

Written by Farkhanda Azmi, India

On a planet run by laws of physics, the most fascinating one can find is the principle of entropy increase. According to this principle, all natural (real) processes occur in such a way that they increase the randomness of this universe (considered to be an isolated system).

This principle is enticing to an academician because it addresses the natural tendency of physical processes. Yet the most astonishing moment comes when I read the verses of the Holy Qur'an that relate principles like these and how The Most High controls each. These verses are meant to be contemplated, rather than simply read.

Like in surah Mulk, verse number 24 states,

**Also say, "He is the One Who has dispersed you 'all' over the earth, and to Him you will 'all' be gathered."**

SubhanAllah! Dispersed and gathered! He (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) caused us to spread on this planet and He (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) will cause us to gather on the Day of Resurrection. It is evident to us that no matter what, we, in our capacity, cannot reverse the natural process, such as bringing the dead alive, reversing and many more like these. Surely, He is Al-Mu'tid (The Restorer, The Reinstater) in whose dominion, it is possible.

In Surah Fil, Allah (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) set an example of His Highness and destroyed the army who intended to destroy the Ka'ba.

**For He sent against them flocks of birds, that pelted them with stones of baked clay** [verses 3-4].

It was a miraculous defeat by the Will of Allah (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى), the stones pierced through his army **And made them like an empty field of stalks (of which the corn has been eaten up by cattle)** [verse 5].

Scientifically, this is only possible if air resistance is absent!

Surely, He is Al-Qawiyy (The All-Strong) in whose dominion it is possible. In Surah Yunus, Allah (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) mentioned about the tyrant ruler, Fir'awn. In verse 92, it is stated:

**So this day We shall deliver your (dead) body (out from the sea) that you may be a sign to those who come after you! And verily, many among mankind are heedless of Our Ayat**

(proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.) This verse is a perfect example of a living miracle. The body of Fir'awn has not yet decayed until this generation. He (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) has complete control over all natural processes. Surely, He is Al-Muqtadir (The All-Powerful, The Dominant) in whose dominion it is possible.

These are some verses that add depth to our worldly knowledge, specifically our scientific understanding. If we ponder verses like these, they bring awe and mystify us. Allah (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) emphasized to us to contemplate and increase our understanding, which brings us closer to Him. We should strive to reflect on the Holy Quran and gain some knowledge by applying our understanding of this Dunya, thus redirecting our ultimate purpose to Ibadah.

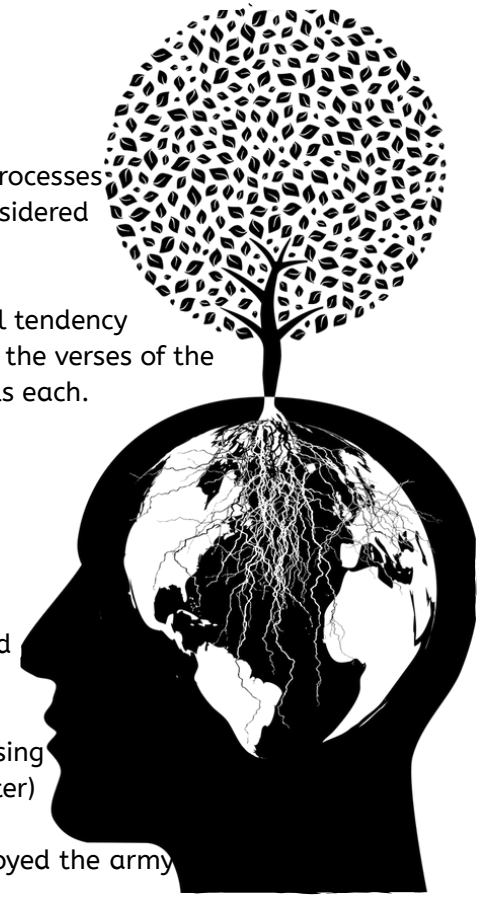
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اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا أَسْأَلُكَ عِلْمًا نَافِعًا

“O Allah, We ask You for beneficial knowledge”



**Ali (may Allah ennoble his face) said,  
“Were the cover to be removed, I would not  
increase in certainty.”**

## **What’s Next?**

***Yaqeen:*** A Firm Ground Beneath Our Feet  
An issue dedicated to the power of  
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