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“O mankind, indeed we have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed the most noble of you in the sight of God is the most righteous of you....”

Surah al-Hujurat

Second chance...

The wind blew against her face. She is looking straight at lands far away as the sun slowly sets behind her. Rain begins to pour from the sky. Her clothes are beginning to get wet, but she is not worried about that now. She is now determined yet at the same time reluctant. To her it seems like the best thing to do, a decision she took without telling others. Not her friends, nor her family. The wind is now fluttering her hair, covering her face. It's getting dark and she feels the time is coming. Her hands are holding on, but the grip is slowly loosening. The rain isn't helping either. Through her eyes she can see buildings lighting up as families are united together around the table for their meals. She takes a deep gulp. She thinks about her own family, her little sister Sufiya, her brother Maruf. But she quickly shakes them out of her mind. Enough is enough. Nobody helped her or cared about her. Her friends wouldn't listen. The guy she thought loved her no longer wants to know her anymore. She is reminding herself about the problems and sufferings she went through. A tear rolls down her cheeks.

There is no peace. As she is about to let go, she hears sounds of footsteps behind her and feel a hand on her shoulders. She is startled and slowly look behind to see a stranger. It is too dark to see the face of this stranger. He extends his hands to her. Her hands begin to tremble. What should she do? She feels that she cannot go back, not to that miserable life.



Pebbles from beneath her shoes fall into the river. The face of the stranger seems very bright. His smile shines like the sun, even in this very dark night. How can he look so peaceful and she doesn't? Slowly she grabs his hands. Can there be a second chance? Slowly she climbs over the railings onto the bridge.

TEEN CORNER

You face a lot of changes in your body and emotions, and temptations and peer pressure are increasingly prevalent at this age. You should remain loyal to the religion of Allah.

Temptations and peer pressure can influence you to commit sins.

Sacrifice your selfish desires and temptations in order to be an appropriate role model for fellow Muslims. Stay away from drugs and alcohol as your life is a gift from Allah. Be grateful for every aspect of life.

Spend an appropriate amount of time in acts of worship, be obedient to Allah and seek guidance through Islam when selfish desires arise.

Spending time in the wrong environment can cause you to pull away from the teachings of Islam.

Always be constantly aware of your surroundings and how it could negatively affect your faith; develop healthy friendships with your peers. Your friends should be willing to help in difficult times and strengthen your commitment to Allah. Avoid spending too much time with friends who encourage deceit, jealousy, envy and sin.





Basic pancake

“Ayesha, do not despair, Allah is always with you”, the stranger speaks. Wait a minute she knows that voice. A car drives past, its headlights reveals the face of the stranger. No he is no stranger, he is her father. Ayesha’s heart feels at ease. That one sentence, echoing in the quiet night brings peace to her heart. Ayesha grabs tightly onto her father’s hands. There is a second chance...



Do you find yourself in this position, like ‘nobody cares about me’, ‘everybody hates me’, Is this you? You might feel like that, but remember there is always someone who really cares, who lifts you up when you fall, who dries your tears when you cry, who gives you that contentment and peace in your heart, that someone is Allah!

Once you commit yourself to His religion, to His way of life, instead of a dull and dark life you will see colours all around you, flowers will blossom and you will have renewed energy to get up and be the Muslim that you should be. Take the first step and you will see the distant to peace and harmony is closer than you think. Start by praying the five daily prayers and your life will start to brighten up.

If you are having suicidal thoughts, please seek help. ”



Ingredients:

- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1 egg
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 1 tbsp baking powder

Optional:

- Berries
- Sprinkles
- Whipped Cream
- Maple syrup/toffee syrup

Method:

- 1) In a bowl whisk in the flour, milk, egg, sugar and baking powder together for 50-60 seconds
- 2) The consistency should be lumpy and thin
- 3) On a non stick pan, brush on a very small amount of oil
- 4) With a Ladle add some mixture onto the pan
- 5) The pancake will become bubbly, at this point flip it over to the other side and cook for another 50 seconds
- 6) Stack the pancakes up, add some toffee sauce or maple syrup, top with some whipped cream and add your favourite berries or some sprinkles
- 7) Tuck in and enjoy!!

You can find more mouth watering delights on the Iced Cherry Blog website:

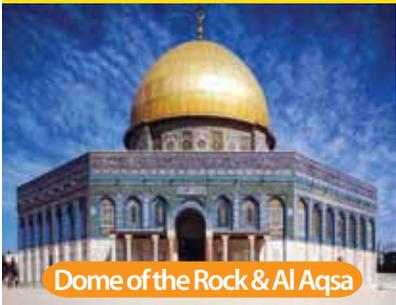
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‘The Believers are but brothers’

How I met my brothers

**“Verily, the believers are brothers so make peace between your two brothers that perhaps you may receive mercy.”
[Qur'an: Surah Al-Hujarat, Verse 9]**

So it all started one day when I was asked to come and join a group of brothers and help them set up for a fundraising event that was going to take place as they were short in number. I was having a pretty rough week but one of my close friends insisted that I come and join them as they really needed help. He also offered to treat me to a munch after and so I accepted the invitation (I couldn't resist hot wings back then :D). Little did I know that this was a truly blessed invitation and my rough week would end with a blessing from Allah (swt)

So I met up with my friend whilst wearing a black hoodie, a baseball cap and jeans hanging half way down my legs (I generally looked a mess, thought it was cool back then!). My friend was wearing a white thobe and a white imaama and he had the biggest smile on his face when he saw me (Didn't see him for a while). He greeted me with Asalaamu'alaykum Wa Rahmatullah Wa Barakaatuh (May the peace, mercy and blessings of Allah be upon you) while I greeted with Wag1 fam (Not sure what that even means lol). The correct response would have been Wa'alaikum Salaam Wa Rahmatullah Wa Barakaatuh (And upon you be peace, mercy and blessings (Of Allah)). Was a bit of an awkward moment but subhanAllah my friend welcomed me and introduced me to some other brothers, some of which I recognized. I was a bit of a shy person so I went for a quick handshake/ spud, but the brothers wanted to go that step further by giving me some serious hugs lol. Instantly we bonded and I felt comfortable being around these brothers even though we were dressed completely different.

On the way to the event I got to know the brothers a bit better and the conversations that we had really made me think deeply about my life and it linked directly with the problems I was facing that week. The solutions to my problems were right in front of me all along, all I needed was for Allah (swt) to send his help down and that I did receive Alhamdulillah.

From www.khidmatulummah01.wordpress.com



superwomen

a look back into history

Khadijah bint Khuwailid

Born: 555 CE Death: 620 CE

Khadijah (May Allah be pleased with her) was the beloved wife of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). She was the first person to embrace Islam and was a massive supporter of her husband. She was a successful businesswoman gaining alot of profit and recognition amongst her people.

“One day when Khadijah was still alive, Jibril came to the Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) and said, "O Messenger of Allah, Khadijah is just coming with a bowl of soup (or food or drink) for you. When she comes to you, give her greetings of peace from her Lord and from me, and give her the good news of a palace of jewels in the Garden, where there will be neither any noise nor any tiredness.”



Why Does It Seem That Allah Never Answers My Prayers?



Answer:

Allah says, “Whoever has fear (taqwa) of Allah, He will give him a way out” (Quran 65:2) and says, “Call on me I will respond” (Quran 40:60).

We believe this to be true and thus if you have fear of Allah and you call on Him, He will give you a way out and will answer your prayers. The thing is, how and when will that be? We are told He will answer us, but we are not told that He will show us how that will occur or when.

Stay firm in your practice of the faith and in your supplication. Do not give into the shaytan and despair from what Allah can do for you. If you are experiencing hardship, this is the time that the shaytan will try to make you slip by having you question the Power of Allah and His Justice.

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