

# 1. Snowflakes

Today was a school break. It was the first day of the new year. Anas looked out of his window. The first snow started to fall. Anas was very happy to see the snowflakes coming down. Just then he heard the *adhan* from the mosque. The *muezzin* was calling people to the afternoon prayers. Anas listened carefully and began to say the *adhan* with the *muezzin*. Amina was listening to him, but he did not see her. When the *adhan* finished, she said to him, “You read the *adhan* very beautifully. It is a very good thing to do. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: ‘A person who hears the *adhan* and repeats it gets the same blessing as the *muezzin*.’ Now, please say the call to prayer again for me.”

Anas had learned the *adhan* prayer last summer. Now, he said it again for his mother. A little later he began watching the snowflakes once again.

## Hadith Time

“A person who hears the *adhan* and repeats it gets the same blessing as the *muezzin*.”

(Al-Mujam Al-Kabir)

# 2. The Forgotten Key

## Hadith Time

“Any important work that does not begin with *Bismillah* is imperfect.”

(Nasai)

The school holidays were over. Anas was back at school. At the lunch break he went to the library. It was very quiet inside. There were only a few people in the room. They were all reading books. Anas walked up and down the rows of books. Then he saw a book he wanted to read.

He took it from the shelf. He pulled out a chair very quietly and sat down. His father had taught him one “key”.

He must use the “key” before he started to read a book. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: ‘Any important work that does not begin with *Bismillah* is imperfect.’ So Anas said this first. Then he opened the book and began to read.



‘You can’t enter Heaven unless you believe. You can’t really believe unless you love each other.’ Just like the non-believers who cannot enter Heaven—if you don’t love each other, you don’t really believe,” she said and left the children to their studies.

## 22. The Book Looking for Its Owner

Anas was cleaning his room. Now he came to his cupboard. He put aside the books he was using. He put his school books to one side. He carefully put the other books on the other side. He took a book in his hand. It wasn’t his book. He wondered whose it was. He thought a little, but he could not remember. Next, he went to his mother. “Mamma! Does this book belong to you?” he asked.

“No,” was the answer.

“Mother, I don’t remember whom I took it from.”

“You should have given it back to the person on time as soon as you finished it. Because the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: ‘To be in debt intending to squander it, Allah will bring the person to ruin.’”

Anas was very upset by this. In class the next day, he asked everybody, one by one. He found the owner of the book and gave it back with an apology.

Hadith Time

“To be in debt intending to squander it, Allah will bring the person to ruin”

(Sahih al-Bukhari)





## 35. Every Day is a Different Day

The first semester of the school was ending. The two-week semester vacation was starting. In the classroom, the teacher asked, “Children, you all have studied a lot. You are going to receive your report cards tomorrow. Are you excited?” Zaynab raised her hand and asked to speak. “Miss, I think my grades will be very high,” she said.

### Hadith Time

“There are two blessings which many people waste: health and free time.”

(Sahih al-Bukhari)



Then, Uzayr raised his hand and said, “Miss, my family and I will also go on a holiday tomorrow. That’s why, I am very happy.” After listening to her students, the teacher said, “All of you, take it easy and have fun on vacation. But, don’t waste your days. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: ‘There are two blessings which many people waste: health and free time.’ Learn new things, and read books while you are travelling on your holiday.”

## 36. Neglecting Knowledge

### Hadith Time

“Near the establishment of the Hour there will be days during which (religious) knowledge will be taken away (vanish).”

(Sahih al-Bukhari)

Anas made a request. Ahmad said, “The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: To neglect and forget knowledge is a disaster. So, on this vacation, you should review everything you learnt.”

Anas liked studying. So he promised his father and his mother that he was going to make a plan and review his lessons everyday.



Grandpa Salih said, “I am trying to do calligraphy.” Anas again asked his grandfather, “Grandpa, why is your pen making those scratching sounds?”

“Look, my little one, this a special pen. We put it into that ink to write on the paper. You see. And now I am writing one of the beautiful names of Allah.” Anas liked his grandfather’s writing very much. As he watched him, he asked his grandfather about it. He said to his grandfather, “Grandpa, do you know? In the summer, I memorized some of the beautiful names of Allah.”

“Well done, my little one. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: ‘Allah has 99 names. Whoever memorizes them goes to Heaven.’ Of course, there are many ways to enter Heaven. But one way is to memorize the 99 names of Allah.” Anas asked his grandfather which name of Allah he was writing. He got the answer: “*Al-Basir*” (which means Allah can see and guard everything).

## 45. Linden Tea

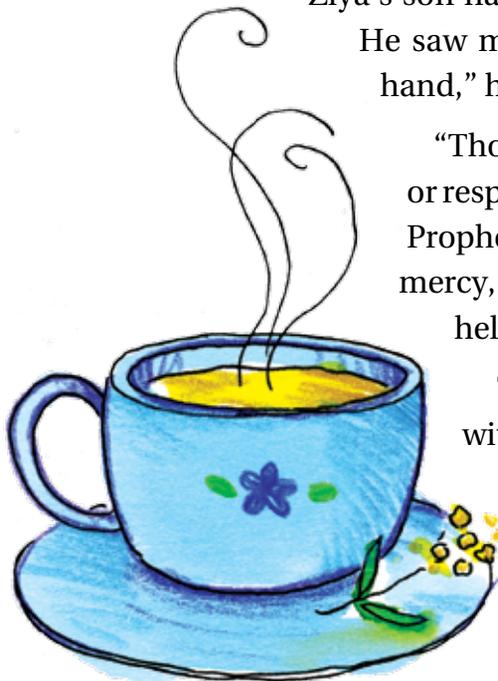
In the village, the evenings were very cold in the winter. So, Grandma Fatma always put linden tea on the stove.

Ahmad was discussing village business with his father. “Father, praise Allah! How Uncle Ziya’s son has grown up.

He saw me and came up to me. Then he kissed my hand,” he said.

“Those, who don’t show mercy to our small ones, or respect to our elders, do not belong to us, said the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Our religion is so good that mercy, love, respect, goodness and compassion—all help people to live in peace.”

Their warm conversation continued along with the hot linden tea that Amina served them.



### Hadith Time

“Those, who don’t show mercy to our small ones, or respect to our elders, do not belong to us.”

(Abu Dawud)

## 46. Don't Even Think About It

Anas' grandfather and grandmother have two cows. Anas went with his grandmother to the cowshed to milk them. Anas watched his grandmother carefully. His grandmother milked the cows with her hands. Soon she filled the bucket with milk. After finishing the job, Grandma Fatma said to Anas, "My little one, take that shovel and clean up the dirty straw." Anas took the shovel and cleaned up around the cowshed. Grandma Fatma said, "Well done, my helpful little do-gooder!"

### Hadith Time

"Allah forgives the thoughts of my *ummah* (followers), if they don't talk about them or do them."

(Sahih al-Bukhari)

Anas smiled at his grandmother's words. He was proud of the job he did. But, he couldn't stop himself from asking his grandmother, "Grandma, I really like doing favours and helping people and animals very much. But, sometimes bad things and ideas go through my mind, too. Is that a sin?" She listened to Anas and said, "the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: 'Allah forgives the thoughts of my *ummah* (followers), if they don't talk about them or do them.' Anyway, you go on doing favours for people."

## 47. The Great Reward

Today was the last day Anas and his family were in Çankırı. During this vacation, Ahmad visited his other relatives in the village too. Anas said, "Father, we visited almost half of the village. We sure have a lot of relatives!"

"My son, visiting relatives earns a big reward. Even if it is only once in a while, we must come to visit and make them happy. Also, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ gave us good news about this with a *hadith*: 'Whoever desired that he be granted more provision, and his life be prolonged, should join ties with his relatives.'" When he learned about the reward for visiting relatives, Anas said immediately, "Really, father?

I didn't know that I'd get a quick reward. It's lucky that we came to visit".

### Hadith Time

"Whoever desired that he be granted more provision, and his life be prolonged, should join ties with his relatives."

(Sahih al-Bukhari)

## 116. The Lesson in the Break

Miss Hasna was taking advantage of the nice weather. They were having the gym class in the schoolyard. Miss Hasna had a whistle hung around her neck. She blew it and called the children. “Children, we’ll take a break. You can sit down on the benches and rest.” Everyone sat on the benches. Murad was left standing up. He could not find a place to sit. So, he sat down on the ground.

### Hadith Time

“A person does not get up from his seat for another. But, a Muslim makes room for his Muslim brother.”

(Al-Tirmidhi)

Anas was sitting next to Salim. He asked him, “Oh, I got very tired—but the gym classes are a lot of fun, aren’t they?” Salim answered, “Yes, they sure are.”



Miss Hasna came over to the children and asked, “Murad, my boy, why are you sitting on the ground? You’re going to get sick.” Murad said that he sat there because there was no space. Then Miss Hasna said to the children, “Look children, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: ‘A person does not get up from his seat for another. But, a Muslim makes room for his Muslim brother.’ This behaviour does not suit a Muslim.” So then, the children got closer together and made room for Murad.

## 117. A Reliable Merchant

### Hadith Time

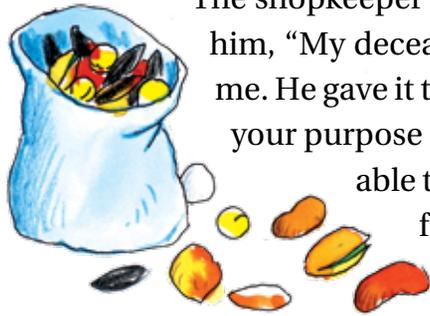
“A reliable and proper merchant is together with the prophets, saints and martyrs.”

(Mustadrak Hakim)

Grandma Fatma’s knees were aching this evening. Amina gave her mother-in-law her medicine. Anas brought her a glass of water to take the medicine with. He said to his grandmother, “Granny, are your knees aching a lot?”

“Yes my little one. You should grow up quickly and become a doctor. Then you can cure me.”

Anas said, a little sadly, “But Grandma, I am not going to be a doctor when I grow up.” His grandmother was curious. She asked, with a little smile, “Let’s hear what my grandson will be.”



The shopkeeper saw Anas was reading the *hadith* intently. He said to him, “My deceased father wrote that *hadith* with his own hands for me. He gave it to me when I was about your age. ‘This *hadith* shall be your purpose as long as you live,’ he told me. I wanted always to be able to see it. So, I hung it in a place of honour in the shop. I feel as if I can hear my father’s words when I look at it.” Then, he got Anas’ order ready and gave it to him.

## 104. May Allah Accept It

### Hadith Time

“Our acts are presented to Allah on Mondays and Thursdays.”  
(Al-Tirmidhi)

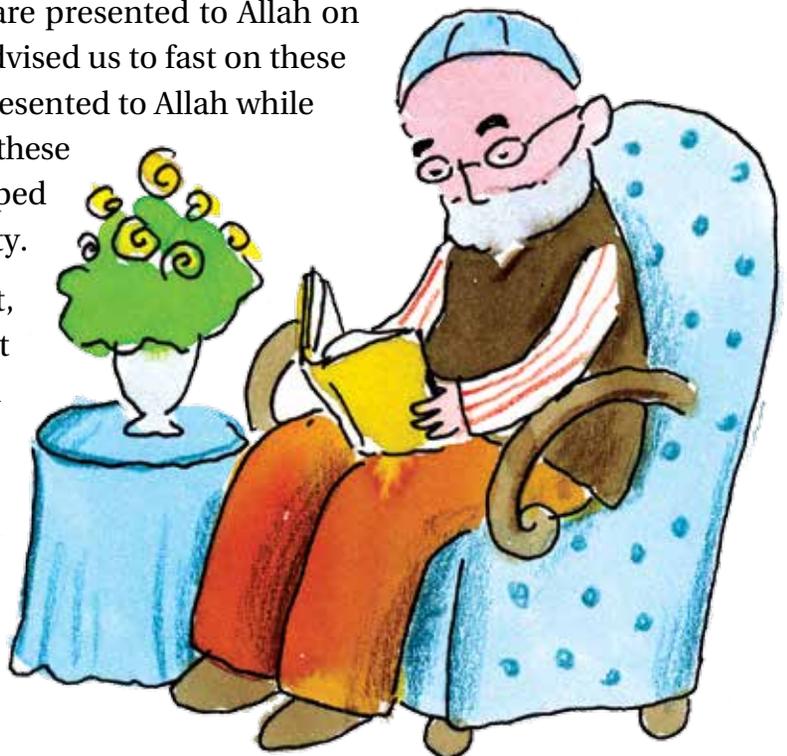
Anas didn’t see his grandfather at breakfast. He asked his mother, “Mamma, why didn’t Grandpa come to breakfast?”

“My little one, your grandfather is fasting today,” answered Amina. Anas swallowed the food in his mouth. He got up from the table and

went to his grandfather’s room. Grandpa Salih was reading a book on his couch. He put down the book when he saw Anas and said, “Have your breakfast, my little one, I’m fasting.”

“Why are you fasting?” Grandpa Salih understood his grandson’s curiosity and said, “Come, sit next to me.” He continued, “The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: ‘Our acts are presented to Allah on Mondays and Thursdays.’ He advised us to fast on these days. I want my actions to be presented to Allah while I’m fasting. I always try to fast on these days, if my health allows.” He hoped that would answer Anas’ curiosity.

“May Allah accept your fast, Grandpa,” said Anas. He went back to the table again to finish his breakfast.



## 142. It's Better for You

Anas was playing games with his friends during the break. A child from another class was sitting in the corner of the garden. He was trying to trip the passing children with his foot and make them fall down. Anas wanted to go and warn him. Just then, the child stood up and started to walk. But he tripped on a stone in front of him and fell down himself.

### Hadith Time

“None of you truly believes until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself.”

(Sahih al-Bukhari)

Anas ran over to help him and said, “Hi. I’m Anas. I’ve been watching you for a while. You got your just deserts, just like in the Prophet’s *hadith*: ‘None of you truly believes until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself.’ It’s better for you, if you don’t do things to others that you don’t want to happen to you!”

## 143. Do Not Despair!

### Hadith Time

“The person, who wants his prayer to be accepted when he is in trouble should pray very much when he is in comfort.”

(Mustadrak Hakim)

The next day, when the lessons were over, Burhan joined Anas and Basit. Burhan said to the two of them, “My father’s business is bad. I pray a lot, but my prayers aren’t accepted. My father’s business does not get any better.”

Anas put his hand on Burhan’s shoulder and said, “My father taught me the Prophet’s *hadith*: ‘The person, who wants his prayer to be accepted when he is in trouble should pray very much when he is in comfort.’ Don’t pray only when your father’s work is going badly. But also pray when it’s going well. Then Allah may accept your prayers in troubled times. Also, my mother always says that children’s prayers will be accepted. You go on praying.”

Anas’ words made his friend feel better. Burhan said, “Thank you, Anas. What you said is very good. I will always keep praying. But you pray too, so that my father’s work will go well, okay?” Anas and Basit said, “Okay.” They would pray for their friend.



“Let me tell you a story which I read the other day. You can tell this to that friend of yours. One day a father and his rich family took their son to a village. The main reason for this trip was to show him how poor people could be. They spent one day in the house of a very poor family. After they returned from that trip the father asked his son, “Did you see how poor people could be?” The child said, “Yes. In our house we have one dog, and they have four. At our house, we only have one pool in the middle of our garden, but they have an endless number of brooks. In our garden we have lamps and they have stars.” When his son stopped speaking, his father could not find words to express his surprise. His son added, “Thank you, father, for showing me how poor we are.” Most important of all, it’s expressed in the *hadith* of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ: ‘No one who has the weight of a seed of arrogance in his heart will enter Paradise.’” Anas happily kept watching the stars in the sky.

## 188. The Three Months

### Hadith Time

“Rajab is Allah’s month, Shaban is my month, and Ramadan is my *ummah*’s month.”

(Kanzul Ummal)

Anas, his father and grandfather went to the mosque for the Friday prayers. The imam gave the good news of the start of the three blessed months. Anas said to himself, “How quickly have these blessed months arrived!”

And the imam started his sermon with this quote of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ: ‘Rajab is Allah’s month, Shaban is my month, and Ramadan is my *ummah*’s month.’

These months are for Ramadan preparations. So, during those months we have to give more importance in our lives to worship and good works.