

Sixty Questions for Children

**“Indeed, there has
come to you a Light
and a Manifest Book
from Allāh” (5:15)**

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SIXTY QUESTIONS

Questions and Answers for Children

by

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In the name of Allāh, the Beneficent, the Merciful

ALMIGHTY ALLĀH

Q.1. Who created this world?

A. Almighty Allāh created this world.

Q.2. Who created Allāh?

A. He is not created by anyone, because He has always been there.

Q.3. Where is Allāh?

A. He is everywhere.

Q.4. What is the meaning of *Tawhīd*?

A. *Tawhīd* means to believe in One God.

Q.5. Why did Allāh create jinn and mankind?

A. For the sake of *ʿibādat* and *maʿrifat*.

Q.6. What do *ʿibādat* and *maʿrifat* mean?

A. *ʿibādat* means to worship and serve Allāh and *maʿrifat* means His recognition.

Q.7. Does Allāh need to be worshipped by mankind?

A. No. He does not need anything. Rather in worshipping Him, there is the well-being of man himself.

Q.8. What is a person who does not believe in the existence of Allāh called?

A. He who does not believe in Allāh is called an infidel (*kāfir*).

ANGEL

Q.9. What is an angel?

A. Angel is a spiritual creature.

Q.10. What do the angels do?

A. Angels perform all the spiritual work of Almighty Allāh.

Q.11. How many angels are there and where are they?

A. The angels are countless. Nobody knows their number except Allāh and His chosen servants. They are everywhere in the heaven and the earth.

Q.12. Can the angels also appear (physically)?

A. Yes, they can also appear (physically) by the command of Allāh.

Q.13. Name some great angels?

A. Jibrā'il, Mikā'il, Isrāfil and 'Izrā'il (a.s.) are the names of the four great angels.

Q.14. What special title is given to these angels?

A. They are called the four *Muqarrab* (i.e. close) angels.

Q.15. What is the special function of these four close angels?

A. Jibrā'il (a.s.) is appointed for revelation (*wahy*) and inspiration (*ilhām*); Mikā'il (a.s.) distributes the sustenance; Isrāfil (a.s.) blows the *ṣūr* (trumpet) and 'Izrā'il (a.s.) seizes souls.

Q.16. Are there angels even greater than the *Muqarrab* (close) angels?

A. Yes, the Universal Intellect and the Universal Soul are even greater than them.

BOOK OF ALLĀH

Q.17. What is the religious Book of Islam called?

A. The religious Book of Islam is called the Holy Qur'ān.

Q.18. Whose speech is the Holy Qur'ān?

A. It is the holy speech of Allāh.

Q.19. Which Messenger received the revelation of the Holy Qur'ān?

A. It is revealed to the Holy Prophet Ḥaẓrat Muḥammad (s.a.).

Q.20. Why did Allāh send the Holy Qur'ān?

A. He sent it for the guidance of Muslims, rather of all the people of the world.

Q.21. Who is the real teacher of the Holy Qur'ān?

A. The Holy Prophet and the True Imām.

Q.22. Was any other heavenly Book revealed before the Holy Qur'ān?

A. Yes, several heavenly Books were revealed before the Holy Qur'ān.

Q.23. Name some well-known heavenly Books.

A. Ṣuḥuf of Ḥaẓrat Ibrāhīm (a.s.), Tawrāt of Ḥaẓrat Mūsā (a.s.), Zabūr of Ḥaẓrat Dāwūd (a.s.), Injīl of Ḥaẓrat ʿĪsā (a.s.) and Furqān (Qur'ān) of Ḥaẓrat Muḥammad Rasūlu'llāh (s.a.).

Q.24. What should be our belief about the heavenly Books revealed before the Holy Qur'ān?

A. We should believe that all the heavenly Books are from Allāh for the guidance of people. But, in the earlier heavenly Books, changes were made, therefore, Allāh sent the Qur'ān so that all the people may act upon its commands.

RASŪL

Knowledge for a united humanity

Q.25. What is a *rasūl*?

A. *Rasūl* means a Messenger, namely, that Perfect Man who conveys Almighty Allāh's message to the people.

Q.26. How many Messengers have come to this world?

A. 124,000 Messengers have come to this world.

Q.27. Who was the first Messenger to come to this world?

A. Ḥaẓrat Ādam (a.s.).

Q.28. Who is the last Messenger?

A. Ḥazrat Muḥammad Muṣṭafā (s.a.)

Q.29. Name some well-known Messengers.

A. Ḥazrat Ādam (a.s.), Ḥazrat Nūḥ (a.s.), Ḥazrat Ibrāhīm (a.s.), Ḥazrat Mūsā (a.s.), Ḥazrat ʿĪsā (a.s.) and Ḥazrat Muḥammad (s.a.).

Q.30. Is there also a Prophet after Ḥazrat Muḥammad Muṣṭafā (s.a.)?

A. No. Not at all. There is neither a Prophet nor a Messenger after the messenger of Almighty Allāh.

Q.31. Does a messenger come to a Messenger also?

A. Yes, in the beginning, Ḥazrat Jibrāʿil comes to every Messenger as the messenger of Almighty Allāh.

Q.32. Have there been more than one Messenger at the same time?

A. Yes, as there were Ḥazrat Ibrāhīm (a.s.) and Ḥazrat Lūṭ (a.s.) at the same time.

IMĀM

Q.33. What is the means of guidance for the people after the demise of the Holy Prophet?

A. The Holy Qurʾān and the True Imām (a.s.).

Q.34. Is the Imām always present and living in this world?

A. Yes, the Imām is always present and living in this world, but, before the Holy Prophet Muḥammad, the function of Imāmat was hidden.

Q.35. If the above is true, tell us who was the Imām in the time of Ḥazrat Ādam (a.s.) and who was the Imām in the time of Ḥazrat Nūḥ (a.s.)?

A. In the time of Ḥazrat Ādam (a.s.), the Imām was Mawlānā Shīṣ and in the time of Ḥazrat Nūḥ (a.s.), the Imām was Mawlānā Sām.

Q.36. Is the Imām appointed by Almighty Allāh and His Messenger, or by the people?

A. The Imām is always appointed by Almighty Allāh and His Messenger.

Q.37. Does a heavenly Book also reveal to the Imām (a.s.)?

A. In the cycle of Imāmat, the revelation of a heavenly Book is unnecessary.

Q.38. Is the Imām responsible to guide all the people of the world?

A. No, He is responsible to guide only those who have accepted his Imāmat. As for the rest, he is the Proof (of Allāh) against them that they rejected his Imāmat.

Q.39. Is obedience to the Imām of the time necessary?

A. Yes, the obedience to the Imām of the time is necessary and obligatory, because the Holy Qur’ān says: “O you who believe! Obey Allāh and obey the Messenger and those who possess the command (of Allāh) from among you.” (4:59). Those who possess the command (of Allāh) are the Imāms in different ages.

Q.40. Who is your present Imām?

A. Our present Imām is Ḥaẓrat Mawlānā Shāh Karīm al-Ḥusaynī (s.a.).

MISCELLANEOUS

Q.41. What is *ta^cawwuz* (seeking refuge)?

A. *A^cuzu bi’llāhi mina’sh-shayṭāni’r-rajim* (i.e. I seek refuge in Allāh from the accursed Satan).

Q.42. Recite the *tasmiyyah*.

A. *Bismi’llāhi’r-raḥmāni’r-raḥim*.

Q.43. What is *Kalimah-yi ṭayyibah* (Article of purification)?

A. *La ilāha illa’llāhu Muḥammadu’r-rasūlu’llāh*.

Q.44. What is the name of your religion (*dīn*)?

A. The name of my religion is Islam.

Q.45. What is the name of your *ṭarīqah*?

A. The name of my *ṭarīqah* is Ismailism.

Q.46. As a believer in Islam, how are you called?

A. I am a Muslim.

Q.47. As a believer in Ismailism, how are you called?

A. I am an Ismaili.

Q.48. Name the five Holy Persons (*panj-tan-i pāk*).

A. Ḥazrat-i Muḥammad Muṣṭafā, Ḥazrat-i ʿAlī Murtaẓā, Ḥazrat-i Fāṭimah-yi Zahrāʾ, Ḥazrat-i Ḥasan and Ḥazrat-i Ḥusayn (a.s.).

Q.49. Recite *lā-fatā*.

A. *Lā fatā illā ʿAlī la sayfa illā Zuʾl-Faqār*, (i.e. There is no ideal Man except ʿAlī and no ideal sword except Zuʾl-Faqār).

Q.50. As Muslims what should be our greeting?

A. *As-salāmu ʿAlaykum* (Peace be upon you).

Q.51. What should be the response?

A. *Wa ʿalaykumus-salām* or *wa ʿalaykumu-s-salāmu wa raḥmatuʾllāhi wa barakātuh* (And peace be upon you or peace be upon you and the mercy of Allāh and His blessings).

Q.52. As Ismailis, how should we greet each other?

A. *Ya ʿAlī madad*.

Q.53. What should be the response?

A. *Mawlā ʿAlī madad*.

Q.54. Does the *farmān* of the Imām of the time contain the wisdom of the Wise Qurʾān?

A. Yes, every *farmān* of the Imām of the time is full of the wisdoms of the Wise Qurʾān.

Q.55. Recite the *Kalimah-yi shahādah* (Article of testifying).

A. *Ashhadu allā (an lā) ilāha illa'llāhu waḥdahu lā sharika lahu wa ashhadu anna Muḥammadan ʿabduhu wa rasūluh.* (i.e. I bear witness that there is no God but Allāh, Who is alone and has no partner and I bear witness that Muḥammad is His Servant and Messenger).

Q.56. Is it correct to say that the Imām of the time is light?

A. Yes, the Imām of the time is the light of the guidance of Allāh.

Q.57. How does Allāh guide mankind?

A. Through the Messengers and the Imāms.

Q.58. In what language is the Holy Qurʾān?

A. The Holy Qurʾān is in the Arabic language.

Q.59. Who can teach the reality of the Holy Qurʾān?

A. The Imām of the time can teach the reality of the Holy Qurʾān.

Q.60. How can we attain the reality of the Holy Qurʾān from the Imām of the time?

A. Through the true obedience of the Imām of the time.

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Abbreviations:

a.s. – *ʿalayhi's-salām* or *ʿalayhumu's-salām*

s.a. – *ṣalla'llāhu ʿalayhi wa ālihi wa sallam* or *ṣalawātu'llāhi ʿalayhi*