

The Seasons are A waiting

Narrator 1: The world is waiting for a savior who will fill it with justice and peace. The Holy Quran says; *And We desired to bestow a favor upon those who were deemed weak in the land, to make them the leaders and to make them the inheritors.* Sura Qasas, verse 5. The Holy Prophet (s) has explained that this verse is a promise from Allah of the eventual victory of Truth over Falsehood. He has said; *The appointed time of the Day of Resurrection will not come until the one from among us (the Ahlul Bayt) will rise with the truth and make his advent*

As we await the Imam and prepare for his coming we should realize that the entire Universe is preparing for his coming. The play you are about to see is a fictionalized story about the preparations of the seasons for the arrival of the Imam. Each season plays its part. Sit back, relax, and enjoy.

Scene One

Narrator 2: When Spring came out it filled the world with green beauty. The world became alive again after the long winter months and new life can be seen everywhere. The beautiful rainbow sitting in a corner of the sky comes forward.

Rainbow: O Spring, Salaam alaykum. Do you know when he will come?

Spring: wa alaykum salaam. To tell you the truth, no I don't. Like you I am also waiting eagerly for him to come. My only wish is to see him and offer him all the gifts I have prepared for him.

Rainbow: When do you think he will come?

Spring (looking around) : I guess he will come in springtime.

Rainbow: Why do you think so?

Spring: Because I see myself fully prepared for his coming. Listen! It is for his sake that each year I fill every place with joy and beauty so that there will be happiness everywhere when he comes. I am really eager for his coming and don't think of anything else. I want to devote my whole life to him.

Rainbow (listening carefully): What will you do for him when he comes?

Spring (with great enthusiasm): I will put an end to nature's long sleep with the pleasant sounds of birds singing. I will adorn the trees with pretty blossoms and make the gardens lush and fragrant. I will make the weather mild and pleasant and tell the breeze to blow over his cheeks gently. I will tell the butterflies to fly around him, fluttering their gorgeous wings in the sunshine. I will tell the orchards to be filled with fruits, and the colorful flowers to transform the world into a garden.

I will tell the spring rains to make the whole place fresh and green, and to water the earth in preparation of his coming. I will make rivers murmur to welcome him, the waterfalls to pour down, the plains to turn green. I will order the sweet scent of happiness to fill every place, the dew to shed tears of joy upon

seeing him, the sun in the blue sky to smile at everyone, and the silvery moonlight to celebrate the end of his absence and the beginning of his visit.

Wherever they are, I will honor his followers. I will fill their hearts with freshness and joy and give them renewed hope. I will help them, strengthen them, so they can be good helpers.

Narrator 2: Spring was overcome with excitement. He paused for a while and took a deep breath:

Spring: That is why I wish he would come in spring time. I have prepared myself to meet him. Will he grant me my wish?

Narrator 2: After saying this, Spring became silent. Both of them fell into deep thought.

Scene Two

Narrator 3: That year Spring went away and Summer arrived, fresh and green. One beautiful morning Rainbow who was still thinking about what Spring had said, talked to Summer.

Rainbow: Dear Summer, can you tell me when he will come?

Summer: He will come when those awaiting his arrival pass their tests successfully. I hope he comes in summertime. More than anyone else I have prepared for his coming and I feel that my wish will be granted.

Rainbow (surprised): How come? What have you done for him, and what will you do?

Summer: Look around. I am the season when Nature is young, the season when gardens and forests become beautiful, when fruits ripen, when the snow and ice on the mountain peaks melt. It is the time for decision and action, the season to reap the harvest.

I am ready to offer him and his companions the best of ripe fruits, and to make the coldest spots on earth warm and pleasant. I can enable them to spread the message of freedom, peace, and friendship everywhere. By thawing the ice and snow, especially those of the North and South poles, I shall cause the water to flow in such a way as to saturate all the dry deserts, turning them into beautiful gardens.

After his followers have worked hard for some time, I will give them the opportunity to spend their vacations in travel and sightseeing so they think about creation and enjoy the blessings and beauty of nature. I will dispel the dark clouds and make the blue sky ready for the sun, the moon, and the stars to shine in.

Really, in what season does the sun await him for such a long time every day? O . . . if he comes . . .

Narrator 3: Summer's words were so effective that Rainbow fell into a beautiful dream, the dream of his coming.

Scene 3

Narrator 4: Then Fall arrived in haste and spread her colors over the earth. The sky was sometimes cloudy and rainy and at other times clear and bright. The weather had turned a little cold but it felt fresh. One day after heavy rain had fallen, the sky gradually cleared. The lovely rainbow appeared, resting on the horizon.

Rainbow: Salaam lovely Fall. What news do you have of him? Do you know when he's coming?

Fall: Salaam to you. No I don't know when he is coming. But which season is more suitable than me? I have come to bow down at his feet and serve him and his followers.

Rainbow: What makes you think Fall is most suitable for his coming?

Fall: I have thought of everything and have equipped myself in all respects for his coming. Regarding beauty, you can see that I have given nature the most beautiful colors. Look at the yellow, orange, red, and brown colors everywhere. Such different shades! They fill the heart with delight. I have made the fall crop of the orchards, fields, and plantations ready to be harvested. Year after year, I wash every place with constant rain for his arrival. I strip the trees of their old garb to make them ready to put on new, clean, and beautiful clothes. I wash off the dirt and dust, and with my cold breeze I urge people to wake up from the slumber of neglect, to get rid of laziness, and become alert and active.

I ring the bells of schools and colleges to that people get ready to attain knowledge. When his brave followers hold up his banner, my gentle wind will blow and make it flutter. I will give them new energy and spark action. When he comes I will devote my life to him.

Narrator 4: Rainbow heaved a heavy sigh. If only he would come.

Scene 4

Narrator 5: Then the cold white winter arrived, entering the houses through even the smallest openings in the windows. People huddled at home, preferring the warmth of their homes over the cold outdoors. Rainbow was waiting for the chance to appear along with the warming rays of the sun behind the mountains. At last one day when it was not so cold, Rainbow came out .

Rainbow: Salaam alaykum Winter. Please give me the good news. Tell me when is he coming?

Winter (coughing): Today or tomorrow, this year or in later years. I don't know. But I long for him to come and I pray that God may make me fortunate enough to host him.

Rainbow: Why you? You have nothing to offer him and can do nothing for him.

Winter: This is where you are mistaken. I am more prepared for his coming than anyone else. You can see that I have spread my silken carpet for him so that he may walk on it. Beautiful, glistening, pure white everywhere. Can you think of a more beautiful carpet for him to walk on? I have covered the slopes of the high mountains with snow to store life giving water for him and his followers. With my cold and frost I will test his friends to see which one of them is willing to leave his warm house for his sake.

My snow will be a warm quilt for the people's farms so that the seeds they have sown become ready to sprout. I will gather families around the fire place of love in their homes, and the elders can talk about their experiences to the young. They can share stories at night and cuddle under a blanket. The hands of the women will knit warm sweaters for those who work outside during the day. The followers can wake up early to talk to the Lord for my nights are long. They can fast during my short days and pray during my long nights, thus making worship easier for them. The pulse of life will throb in the warmth and sincerity of households.

I am ready to meet him . . . Oh . . . if he comes.

Narrator 5: Rainbow was overcome with emotion. Even cold frosty winter was preparing for the coming? Rainbow got up and cried out loudly.

Rainbow: May your waiting be rewarded, may your waiting be rewarded.

Scene 5

Narrator 6: As rainbow moved around in the sky, she looked at the homes under her and wondered if the people in the homes were also waiting for him to come. Were they as eager as the seasons were to welcome him? Rainbow decided to find out and came down to where a group of children were sitting.

Rainbow: Salaam alaykum. Tell me, are you ready for his coming? Are you prepared?

Children: wa alaykum salaam. Yes, we are also ready. Listen to our message:

Tell the Lord
and the watchful leader
who awaits the call
to appear on earth

These little helpers
these little workers
are ready for you
and are preparing for you
in every home
and in every place

Tell him
that like Spring and Summer
and Fall and Winter
we are awaiting
so that we can see him
and work with him for God

We will help spread justice
and remove all injustice
the world we will transform
and fill it with glow
the message of God we will spread
in every town and land

We are awaiting . . . we are a waiting . . .