

**MARCH 2020 TO
APRIL 2021**

All praise belongs to the Almighty that the Academy for Learning Islam (A.L.I.) was able to continue its services to the community despite the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. The changes made necessary by these restrictions have in some ways enabled us to reach a larger audience. Some events such as yearly retreats and day camps have had to be cancelled. We pray that the Almighty may assist us to continue working in His way and reward all the many volunteers who sacrifice their time and efforts to make A.L.I. activities possible.

The following is a summary of our activities of the last year.

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I – A.L.I. Courses

1 Online courses for adults

Thirty-six online courses were held during this year. Participants came from different cities in Canada, America, United Kingdom, UAE and Pakistan. Below are some of the topics which were covered. A more detailed list can be found at <https://academyofislam.com/course-archives/>;

a) Quran – Spirituality in the Quran, Creative Quran teaching, Affirmations from Quranic concepts, The verse of Light, History of translation of the Quran, Quran Tafsir by Shia Muslims in English, Historic reliability of the Quran.

b) The Ma’sūmīn (a) – Understanding the political and social roles of the Ma’sūmīn (a), Peace treaty of Imam al-Hasan (a), Teachings of the Ahlul Bayt (a) on the Family, Spiritual Teachings of the Ahlul Bayt (a), Active preparation for the Imam of our time.

c) Health and Well-being – Mindfulness and Spirituality, Personal Development in the light of Islamic teachings, Understanding food labels, Preparing for the month of Ramadan.

d) Other – Fitrah of the human being, Establishing an intimate relationship with God, ‘Ālam al-Dharr, Knowledge of the unseen,

2 Online Quranic Appreciation courses for children

Quran Appreciation courses help children build a relationship with the Quran through interactive and fun lessons on selected passages of the Quran. A total of 24 Quran Appreciation courses were held this year for children ages 7-16. The courses catered to different age groups and were separate for boys and girls in the oldest category of 13-16 years. Participation ranged from 15- 32 students in each class and students came from Canada, America, United Kingdom and Qatar.

II – A.L.I. Publications

1 Printed copies

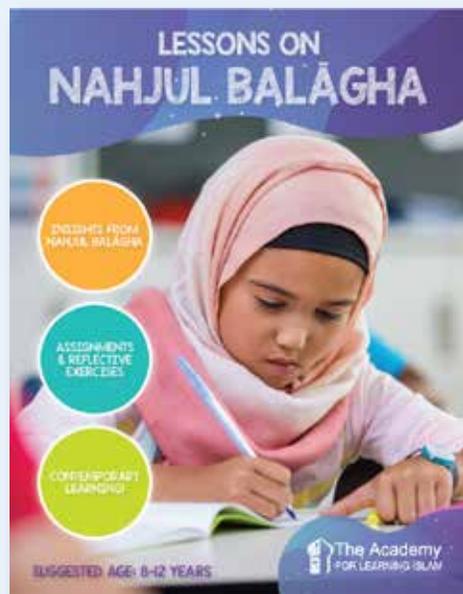
The following new titles were added to our publication list.

- Quranic Reflections, Book III
- Knowing the Ma’sūmīn: Imam al-Mahdī (af)
- Knowing the Ma’sūmīn: Imam Ali Ridhā (a)
- Knowing the Ma’sūmīn: Imam al-Taqi (a)
- Lessons from Nahjul Balagha, ages 8 – 12 years
- Daily Devotions, reprinting of Daily Du’ās with editing changes

1 Digitalized Versions

With the onset of pandemic and the lockdown continuing into the second year, there was a surge in demand of digitalized copies of our publications. The following books were digitalized in this time period;

- GTA Imsākiyyah for 1441 AH
- Video clip on Fadak from Sunni Sources
- Shia Connections App on Matchmaking
- Sha’bān Devotions
- Tahajjud Salat, 3rd Revised Edition.
- Quranic Reflections, Book III



- Knowing the Ma'sūmīn: Imam al-Mahdī (af)
- Knowing the Ma'sūmīn: Imam Ali Ridhā (a)
- Knowing the Ma'sūmīn: Imam al-Taqi (a)
- Rajab and Sha'ban Devotions
- A Manual of Ramadan Devotions which includes Shawwal Devotions.
- Five Short Du'ās for Epidemic



3 Amalgamating Tayyiba books and A.L.I.

In June 2020, the Academy purchased the entire stock of books with Tayyiba Publishers. A.L.I. will now edit and republish the books originally published by Tayyiba Publishers.

4 ALI Publication Team (APT).

In March 2021, a team of volunteers was formed to take over the promotion, distribution, sale and shipping ALI publications. The team is led by Sr Nasifa Remtula.

III - Weekly Quranic Reflections

A.L.I. continues to send out a reflection on a Quranic verse every Friday to our mailing list with over 3,000 subscribers. These Reflections are short points on the verse, derived from authentic Tafāsīr and include thoughts on implementing the verse in daily life. Quranic Reflection in French is sent out on Thursdays. The Reflections are also posted in the Zakireen group. All past Reflections are available at <https://academyofislam.com/quran/quran-reflections/>



IV – Website Resources

The following useful resources are now available on the A.L.I. website.

1 Sahīfa Sajjādiyya Portal

On the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Ali Zaynul 'Ābidīn (a) 1442, the Academy launched a Sahīfa Sajjādiyya portal on our website. The portal contains 68 du'ās with Arabic text and side-by-side dual English translations, explanations to 19 Du'ās, links to video presentations on some of the supplications, 14 articles on the authenticity, collection and significance of the Sahīfa, and more. The URL of the portal is <https://academyofislam.com/sahifa/>.

2 Comprehensive list of Quran Tafsir Sessions

With the help of volunteers, the Academy has been able to post a unique resource of over 80 pages of all available Quran Tafsīr sessions in English by Shī'ī Muslim speakers and scholars. This useful list is being constantly updated. The URL to this resource is <https://academyofislam.com/resources-category/quran-tafsir-sessions/>

3 Quranic Arabic Lessons

The Academy has offered many courses in the past on learning the language of the holy Quran. The lessons are being posted on our website under the Quran category. This category also has many other useful resources on the Quran.

V – Other Activities

1 Sura Familiarization in the month of Ramadan

Since Holy Ramadan 1439 AH (May 2018), the Academy has been publishing daily lesson in the holy month of Ramadan on the familiarization of Quranic suras. Between 350 – 400 people subscribe to receive the lessons daily via email during the holy month.

2 Live program in the month of Ramadan after Fajr Prayers

For the month of Ramadan 1441 AH, A.L.I. conducted a live Zoom program on simple tafsir of Du 'ā Makārim al-Akhlāq including a daily Ramadan tip and a few minutes of question/answers. An average of 125 people participated from East Africa, Dubai, United Kingdom, United States and Canada. About forty people joined the program via the ALI YouTube channel.

3 Social Media consultant

Sr. Maryam Mohamedali is now in charge of A.L.I. posts on social media. A.L.I. is active on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and is able to reach many people through it.

4 Services to JCC ladies

Sr Tahera Kassamali advises and counsels the ladies of Greater Toronto Area through telephone, email and Zoom presentations. We are grateful to Islamic Shia Ithnā Asharī Jamaat of Toronto for giving us the opportunity to serve the ladies of the community.

5 Support to Educational Institutions

A.L.I. sometimes receives funds for tabligh which are partially used to support Islamic programs at various educational institutions. For the period under review donations were sent to Al-Hadi Islamic School (Scarborough, ON), Al-Kawthar Foundation (Surrey, BC), Imam Mehdi Education Center, Oliver Tree Foundation (Markham, ON), Selm Academy (Richmond Hill, ON), Wali ul-Asr Learning Institute (Caledon, ON), World Islamic Network and Zahra Charitable Trust.

6 Al-Mujtaba Subsidy

The Al-Mujtaba fee subsidy program provides financial assistance to Shia Ithnā-Asharī Muslim students attending full time Islamic School in the GTA. This assistance is provided by subsidizing a portion of their total fees. For the academic year 2020 - 21, we are supporting a total of 11 children by paying 40% of each child's total fees. This is an increase from the 7 children we supported last year - our first year of operation. Every year the number of families in need of financial assistance keeps growing. Unfortunately, we have to turn down a number of qualified children due to lack of funding.

7 Assistance to Shia Connections

Shia Connections has been instrumental in providing a matchmaking service for single Shias, and also in providing guidance, education and mentoring to both single Shias and married consultants. It has offered programs with Sr. Marziya Hassan and Br. Abbas Merali where candidates and consultants learn more about mental health concerns with respect to matchmaking, and how to effectively work with single candidates. A.L.I. assisted Shia Connections in generating donations for their iOS and android app soon to be launched.