



السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

AL-QALAM ACADEMY STUDENT PARENT HANDBOOK





Acquire knowledge and impart it to the people (Al-Tirmidhi, Hadith 107).

A father gives his children nothing better than a good education (Al-Tirmidhi).

One who treads a path in search of knowledge has his path to Paradise made easy by God (Riyadh – us- Saleheen, 245)

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE: -

Asalamualikum warehmatullahi wabarakatuhu.....

My name is Kulsum Saleh, the school Principal, and It is my pleasure to welcome you to ALQALAM ACADEMY. The faculty and staff join me in saying we're happy to have you as part of this community. We hope this will be a successful and satisfying year for you. As always, I am so deeply humbled and honored to work with your children every day. They consistently remind me of my own values and give me the strength it takes to build a school where they all feel loved. And I assure you—they are all loved.

SCHOOL MISSION & CORE VALUES

Al-Qalam Academy is a dynamic institution, which offers parents and students an Islamically oriented within the modern educational method. The school is free from nearly every potential danger inherent in the public education system. Within a dignified and supportive setting, the school promotes academic excellence, creative development, critical reasoning skills, and the highest possible cognitive abilities. Students will learn to live Islam, as well as understand that they must neither reject this world nor prefer it over the Hereafter.

The school is blessed with a large Masjid facility on premise which allows for the holding of regular morning assembly which is commenced every day for morning azkar and few a hadith, Zuhr and Jum'ah prayers. In addition, all Islamic holidays are observed, and special events in the history of Islam are highlighted and celebrated. Other features include events, competitions, field trips, Eid activities, and other memorable and exciting events.

May we gain strength in carrying out these goals, and may Allah help us preserve Islam among our children and the generations to come. Ameen.

GOALS

1. Our main goal is to Approach the principles of the Holy Qur'an and the teachings of our blessed Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to the minds and hearts of our children by teaching the Holy Qur'an, Hadith, Seerah, Fiqh, the lives of the Sahabah (companions), and the lives of the greatest spiritual, scholarly and historical figures from Islamic history.
2. Teach Arabic Language as an integral part of the curriculum in order to open pathways to a deeper understanding of the Holy Qur'an. Islam is the basis of everything we do at the Al-Qalam.
3. All members of the school community are dedicated to support students' development (academically, morally, socially, and religiously) We believe that parents are vital partners in the success of the educational cycle and each student is unique and is a precious addition to the culture and diversity of the school.
4. We cater to all our students needs to ensure we help each and every student reach their fullest potential.

5. Reinforce the values and teachings of our tolerant Islam regarding promoting collaboration, diversity, tolerance, acceptance and respect of others in order to prepare our students to live, work and compete successfully in multi-cultural societies, but always
6. keeping their Muslim identity and distinguish between lawful (halal) and unlawful (haram).
7. Maintain leisure and cultural activities such as sports, arts, crafts and games in order to develop individual talent and leadership characteristics and offer an outlet for demonstrating creativity.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Al-Qalam Academy is governed by the Board of Directors which makes policies, decisions, and rules regarding the operation of the Academy and supervises and administers all the functions of the Academy. Decisions of the Board are based on recommendations made by the Principal. The members of the Board do not receive any financial compensation for their work as Board Members.

Moazzam Siddiqi :- Ph.D President /Trustee: Educationist, Former Division Chief Near East , South Asia Division VOA

Zahid Hameedi :- Chairman/Trustee, Executive Director: M.A (Journalism & Public Affairs) from American University, Washington DC

Burhan Ullah Qadri– Ph.D: Trustee: Scientist worked for U.S Department of Navy

Annie Kameron -Trustee : M.A (Counselling) from George Mason University

Dr. Amir Rehman:- Trustee: Physician

Principal

The Principal supervises all activities of the Al-Qalam Academy under the rules and regulations set by the Board. The teachers, other school personnel, and volunteers work under her supervision. The school staff is selected based on educational qualifications, Certification, Proficiency in English and Arabic, Islamic values, and relevant experience. Almost all Al-Qalam teachers have a high degree of commitment to Islamic values as well as sound academic backgrounds and experience. The Academy does not discriminate.

ADMISSIONS: -

Al-Qalam Academy does not discriminate based on color, ethnicity, or gender for enrollment. The curriculum and other activities combine the best training in core subject areas with the practice of Islam so that our students can grow up to be conscientious Muslims. The Academy requires all its students to take all core courses, including Islamic education and Qur'anic reading, and Arabic Language with the core subjects. Al-Qalam Academy does not discriminate based on color, ethnicity, or gender for enrolment. The curriculum and other activities combine the best training in core subjects.

Grade Transcripts and School Records

Parents whose child(ren) has attended a school other than the AL-Qalam Academy must sign. Release of the Student Documents Form will enable the Academy to obtain a copy of the candidate's current and previous school records.

Interviews

Applicants for Middle & High School may be interviewed by the Al-Qalam Academy before admission. This gives us a chance to learn more about candidates and their families, as well as allows the families to learn more about the Academy.

Entrance Assessments

Al-Qalam Academy reserves the right to administer entrance exams to new applicants or reenroll students on conditional status. These exams are based on grade-level Math and Language Arts proficiency.

Medical Records:

Proof of completed immunizations and a signed physical examination report by a family physician must be submitted.

Tuition Contract

Parents must review and sign the Tuition Contract annually.

TUITION

Tuition at Al-Qalam Academy does not reflect the actual cost of educating a student. Student tuition generally covers less than 50% of the total cost of running the Academy. Upon acceptance a tuition contract must be agreed upon and signed by parents. Al-Qalam Academy reserves the right to adjust the tuition and fees for books and activities at the beginning of each academic year.

Financial Assistance

Limited financial assistance may be offered each year, depending on availability. The Academy's FA program is zakat based. In order to be eligible, parents must complete and submit a financial assistance application by the appointed deadline. Parents may be interviewed by the financial aid committee.

Payment:

Payments must be made by check or money order made out to 'Al-Qalam Academy'. If we receive a check that has been returned by the bank for any reason, the parent will be charged a penalty fee. After two (2) returned checks, only money orders will be accepted.

Tuition payments are due no later than the tenth (3rd) of each month. A late fee will be assessed for late payments. (Fee to be determined and communicated to parents in writing)

If tuition is not paid, then your child(ren) will not be allowed to attend classes after the fifteenth (15th) day of each month, until tuition is paid.

Student Withdrawal Policy:

- ⇒ If student(s) withdraw during September of the academic year, parents will be liable for 25% of the annual tuition.
- ⇒ If student(s) withdraw during October-December of the academic year, parents will be liable for 50% of the annual tuition.
- ⇒ If student(s) withdraw after December 31 of the academic year, parents will be liable for 100% of the annual tuition.

FAIRFAX COUNTY TITLE- I & III SERVICES: -

Al - Qalam Academy is equipped to teach students that might need ESL (English as a Second Language) instruction and provide Title -I services Alhamdulillah.

However, whoever wasn't eligible will be again re-assessed, and, in that case, interested parent/student is requested to fill up the home-language survey form so those specific students can qualify or get these ESL services in sha Allah. On the other hand, AL- Qalam is not equipped to **Special Education or behavior problems**. So, in this case, Parents or school Administration will be referring students in need of special care to the appropriate local public school districts after several consultations between the Principal and the Parent.

ACADEMICS

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM & PRE-K.

Our Early Childhood program promotes the spiritual, emotional, intellectual, physical and social growth of the child. The curriculum uses a "hands-on" approach to learning. It is based on the belief that children learn best through "active learning," direct, hands-on experiences with people, objects, events, and ideas are encouraged. Multi-sensory activities that enhance the total development of the child are planned around a theme, or as part of an integrated unit.

ELEMENTARY SECTION- (KG-GRADE-5)

Al -Qalam Academy implements own unique curriculum with an integrated approach to learning. The curriculum is also guided by the grade level Virginia Standards of Learning & FCPS through which **core subject areas** along with **Arabic, Quran, Islamic Studies, Physical Education, and Art, are experienced through a broader view**. Our program is supported by guidelines, resources and professional development for teachers to make good decisions around student learning.

It is our goal to make sure that each elementary student receives an equitable, rigorous, and relevant education. In addition to the instruction in reading, writing, and mathematics that is integral for success in life, we are committed to educating the whole child, through engaging experiences and hands-on learning. Further, we attend to the character development of the child through programs that focus on caring, respectful relationships, problem-solving, decision-making, and conflict resolution. It is our belief that every child deserves to experience excellent teaching and deep learning that meets her/his needs in every classroom, every single day.

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL (Girls GRADE 6-12) REVIEW.

Al-Qalam Academy - Middle & High School program continues to focus on the whole child through programs, extra-curricular activities, and emphasis on our core values. Special attention is paid to building social and practical skills that prepare students for successful integration into whichever high school programs they attend after graduating Al-Qalam academy. The curriculum is also guided by the grade level Virginia Standards of Learning & FCPS, through which **core subject areas** along with **Arabic, Quran, Islamic Studies, Physical Education, and Art.**

VIRGINIA VIRTUAL ACADEMY.....

Al-Qalam provides VAVA as an extensive support system to both parents and students. In grades (6–12), working closely with our teachers as a "learning coach" to our students, helping them to facilitate students' progress and working to modify the pace and schedule as needed. Each teacher is state licensed and trained in her specific subject area. In addition, monthly networking opportunities are provided through various events and outings, enabling the entire school community to keep in close contact. While attendance, teacher interaction, and daily lessons are conducted online, their lessons use physical materials and offline tools as well. VAVA Students are very lucky to merge with other activities in Al - Qalam. They have access to get all other electives taken in normal classes like – Arabic – Islamic Studies & Quran and limited access to Art-Physical Education – Coding – Computer.

SCHOOL HOURS

School starts at 8:00 am; the assembly starts sharp after the arrival time; teachers will start the daily instruction and activities at 8:45 a.m. Parents are allowed to start dropping their children up starting at 8:00 a.m. In the morning, the morning azkar will be done/practiced, so students can listen to them every day and memorize them. Students who are late and arrive after 8:15 a.m. will be marked tardy on their permanent attendance record. Students who accumulate more than 5 tardies per quarter will be asked to have a conference with the Principal. So, please ensure students are dropped off before 8 am In sha Allah.

School dismisses at 2:50 p.m. (K 12), whereas Montessori & Pre-k at 2:30 pm. All students are escorted by their teachers to be dismissed. Parents **MUST** drive around the building and pick up their child(ren). Students will not be released to anyone not indicated on the student's enrollment form/emergency contact form. If any students are picked up late i.e, after 3:10 pm, an hourly charge will be imposed; or will be escorted to after school program. (After School program timings 3:15 pm – 5:00 pm).

Emergency Contact Numbers:

All parents are required to complete Emergency Contact Forms. This is an important document, and it is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that the office is informed immediately of any change of address or phone number.

OBSERVATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Throughout the year, the teacher and the principal will observe students to determine their performance. If a child is found to be not performing on grade level, we will provide him/her with all the support that we have at the school. Should the child require more support that is not available at the school, we will refer the student to the public school system for more support.

INTERVENTION PROGRAM

The school will introduce an intervention program for weak/below-average students by the end of 1ST QUARTER. TWICE/THRICE A WEEK 2:50-3:30 pm (free Intervention prg.) HRT WILL REACH OUT TO YOU AND LET YOU KNOW MORE ABOUT IT. There will be a heavy concentration on reading the skills in Arabic- Language Arts and Math to improve so the student can catch up to the grade level in sha Allah.

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

Al-Qalam Academy follows the common core state standards for its academic subjects. Therefore, it must be noted that at the middle & High school levels, the curricula are more advanced and require greater effort, focus, and discipline for classwork and homework. Keep in mind: our students take 3 extra academic subjects (Quran, Arabic, and Islamic studies) compared to their fellow students in other public schools. This adds to the weight of academic responsibilities.

TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS

Regular testing is essential for the evaluation of students' work. Teachers observe a regular schedule of tests and quizzes. Every effort is made to avoid more tests in a day. Children with an excused absence will have a chance to take the test or quiz they missed during the week they return to school, based on the teacher's decision. Regular Students in grades 6-12 will receive Midterm and Final examinations. Standardized testing starting kindergarten-Grade 12 at the end of each academic year.

AQA HIFDTH PROGRAM:-

AQA is launching **the Hifdth program**, Hifdth Program for grades KG and above. Before School 7:30 am - 8:45 am M-F (Enrollment is only for AQA students, and the fee is \$100/monthly discounts do not apply to Hifdth Program fees.).

GRADING: MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

Letter Grade	Min %	Notes	Letter Grade	Min %	Notes
A+	97%	Excellent	C	73%	Average
A	93%	Excellent	C-	70%	Average
A-	90%	Excellent	D+	67%	Below Average
B+	87%	Very Good	D	63%	Below Average
B	83%	Very Good	D-	60%	Below Average
B-	80%	Very Good	F	0%	Failure
C+	77%	Average			

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GRADING

Points	Notes
4	Exceeds Target
3	Meets Target
2	Progressing Toward Target
1	Little or No Competency

REPORT CARDS

The school year is divided into four marking quarters with report cards sent home at the end of each term. Each term is around 9 weeks long. Parents will receive the student's report card no later than 10 school days after the end of each marking quarter.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE

Parent/Teacher conferences for Elementary-Middle and High students are scheduled at the end of the First Quarter only. Parents or teachers are most welcome to request Parent Teacher conferences as needed. We welcome your requests for conferences. It is very important that you know what is going on with your child at school. Please schedule all conferences by calling the office. At this time, the front office will assist you in arranging a conference with your child's teacher. Parents are not allowed to approach teachers during school hours without prior appointment; in such a case, teachers have the right to refuse the meeting. Teachers are not required to give parents their personal phone numbers. Teachers are not expected to attend any calls or answer any emails from parents or students after working hours.

AL-QALAM ADMINISTRATION.

ATTENDANCE

Al-Qalam Academy discourages absences from school for reasons other than illness. In cases where students must be absent from school for more than 15 consecutive days for approval by the principal. Records of student attendance will be maintained throughout the whole year. Children are required by law to stay in school during school hours. Absences due to illness or emergencies are excused. The parent must notify the school promptly if their child is absent.

WEATHER-RELATED CLOSINGS

In bad weather, the school will either be closed or delayed. If there is a delayed opening or school closure. Al - Qalam Academy will relay this information to Fairfax Public School. Alternatively, a school email will also be sent by the Principal and Teachers too. **If Snow days are prolonged, classes will commence through the Zoom platform. So, PLEASE PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO YOUR SCHOOL EMAIL AT THIS TIME.**

RAMADAN HOLIDAYS

During Ramadan, School will commence ON TIME. The last ten days are observed as holidays for Ramadan last nights as well as for Eid Break-In sha Allah, so the students and the staff could ultimately use the last 10 nights with complete spiritual indulgent along with Eid Holidays. This will embark our students with the importance of the last ten days of Ramadan and Eid - ul -Fitr holidays.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT / PARTICIPATION

Parent feedback and involvement are essential to the success of the school. It is the policy of Al-Qalam Academy fully encourages parents' participation through involvement in volunteering..... as well as the PTA (Parent Teacher Association). The PTA is designed as a support system for the school. Chaperoning school trips and other volunteer activities, as well as initiating fundraising activities, are just some of the examples of the activities in which the PTA is involved. The PTA will work with the Principal to set long and short-term goals and objectives for the PTA. A strong PTA is essential to the success of any school. The PTA is not a policy-making body and does not interfere with the school's management. The Principal must approve all PTA activities.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS:

The following are expectations that Al-Qalam Academy has from all our parents to ensure that the collaboration between home and school is existent.

- ⇒ Parents are expected to check in with their child(ren) daily on their progress at school and on homework for the day.
- ⇒ Parents are asked to limit the number minutes that their children spend during school days watching TV and or playing video games. Instead we encourage parents to encourage their children to read books, and review materials that were studied at school.
- ⇒ Parents are expected to provide a comfortable noise free pace for their children to do their homework on a daily basis.
- ⇒ Parents are expected to keep an open communication channel with the teachers.
- ⇒ Parents are expected to attend and participate in different school events to support their children and the school.
- ⇒ Parents, whoever is to drop off or pick up or come to the school premises for their kids should be dressed modestly.
- ⇒ Parents must share their suggestions, concerns, and feedback with the principal.

Grievance and Conflict Resolution Procedure

Throughout the school year, problems and misunderstandings may occur between students, parents, teachers, and administration. It is vital to maintain good communication between all four parties. The following procedure should be followed for all parties involved to feel respected and heard and for the conflict to be resolved in a quick and precise manner.

Step 1: The parent calls to schedule a conference with the teacher. (Teachers cannot hold conferences with you in the classrooms when students are present, in the hallway or at functions outside of school.) If you are not satisfied with the results of this meeting, proceed to step 2.

Step 2: Contact the principal's office and schedule a conference between yourself, the teacher, and the principal. The principal will schedule the time and date of the conference and try to resolve the issue.

Parental Consequences for Misconduct

Your child may be dismissed from the school based on parental misconduct. Misconduct is as follows:

1. The parent threatens or verbally abuses any staff member or another student of Al-Qalam Academy.
2. The parent refuses to adhere to policies prescribed by the school.
3. The parent disrespects any staff member by yelling, or cursing

FIELD TRIP POLICY

At AL-QALAM Academy, we feel that first-hand experience is vital part of the learning process. This is the reason; we take field trips. Field trips are often used to enhance curriculum. **All students in ECP -12th Grade are required to attend educational field trips planned by their teachers.** Properly supervised and planned educational field trips are an important part of the instructional program. Parents will be notified of the field trip rules, times, fees and appropriate attire before every field trip. A signed permission form from a parent or guardian is required for all field trips.

BIRTH DAY POLICY

We do not celebrate birthdays at Al-Qalam Academy. Students are encouraged not to bring any cupcakes or cakes.

MOVIE POLICY

Occasionally, Islamically appropriate and age-appropriate movies may be used for teaching or celebrations/free time. Educational movies may be used across all the curriculum subjects. It is required that all students watch educational movies that are being used to supplement the curriculum. If you do not want your children watching movies for entertainment, please write a formal letter to the teacher requesting this.

Transition to adulthood

- This progression to middle school will be one of growth, development, and change for your child as well as for you, the parent. Parents must be prepared to help their children transition from childhood to adulthood.
- Your children, our students, will undergo many physical, emotional, and spiritual changes. Please discuss any concerns that may come up during the school year with the teachers and administration. We need to develop a strong partnership and open communication.
- Al-Qalam Academy staff, parents, and students will rely on the Qur'an and Sunnah to help guide our "kids" into Allah-conscious, educated, and responsible young adults, Insha'Allah.

Discipline

Our Middle & High school students are the "Emerging leaders" of the school. We expect them to serve as role models for younger students in elementary school and respect the older students in upper school.

DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

Al-Qalam Academy endeavors to instill in our students a strong desire to please Allah Subhana wa Ta'ala through appropriate behavior. We believe that children must be *taught* appropriate behavior. It is only when young Muslims learn to regulate their own behavior that they will be able to strive for success in this life and the Hereafter, Insha'Allah.

In an effort to address additional disciplinary issues Al-Qalam Academy implements a progressive step of discipline toward correcting students' behavior. It is the responsibility of parents to understand and discuss this policy with their children.

MERIT/DEMERIT SYSTEM

Al Qalam has merit/demerit systems to inculcate appropriate behavior among students. Students will receive merit for work done in and out of the classroom. In the case of the infraction of school rules, students will receive demerits and will be disciplined accordingly.

MINOR INFRACTIONS AND ASSIGNED LEVELS OF SEVERITY

S.NO	MINOR INFRACTION	POINTS
1	Bringing unauthorized, materials to school, e.g., hand-held games, cosmetics, Walkman, iPod, iPad, tablet etc.	3
2	Coming unprepared for class	2
3	Conduct and behavior that endanger other students	3
4	Disruptive behavior in class.	5
5	Excessive noise on the school premises.	1
6	Cell phones – failing or refusing to submit cell phones.	3
7	Improper hygiene, e.g., nail polish, dirty uniform, long nails, make-up etc.	2

8	Incomplete homework.	1
9	Lateness/ missing / leaving class without permission.	2
10	No homework	3
11	Not being in the assigned area	1
12	Not wearing the complete uniform	1
13	Opening another student's locker	3
14	Sale of any items without approval	3
15	Coming late to school / Tardiness	1

MAJOR INFRACTIONS AND ASSIGNED LEVELS OF SEVERITY

S.NO	MAJOR INFRACTION	POINTS
1	Using profane, vulgar language to faculty, staff or fellow students	5
2	Disrespect to faculty and staff members	5
3	Destruction of school property	X
4	Fighting	X
5	Possession of objects that can cause harm	X
6	Stealing	X
7	Leaving the school premises without permission	5
8	Being in possession of inappropriate literature	X
9	Deliberately avoiding Salah at school	5
10	Bullying, hazing, and harassment including cyber bullying	X
11	Engaging in lewd behavior	X
12	Selling, using, or possessing of dangerous instruments	X
13	Insubordinate conduct –failing to comply with directions of teachers or administration	X
14	Cheating	5
15	Causing a false alarm by pulling the fire alarm	X
16	Inappropriate use of the internet to communicate with other students or damaging information about the school	X

CONSEQUENCES

- ⇒ Accumulation of **ten (10) demerits**, a letter will be sent to the parents of the student to attend a conference.
- ⇒ Accumulation of **fifteen (15) demerits**, students will be suspended for one day or two depending on the discretion of the Principal and must return to school with their parents for a conference.
- ⇒ Accumulation of **twenty-five (25) demerits**, student will receive two days out of school suspension. Students will return to school with their parents for a conference.
- ⇒ Accumulation of **thirty-five (35) demerits**, letter of possible expulsion will be issued to the parents who will attend a conference with the Principal.
- ⇒ When a student is suspended, he/she will not be allowed to enter the school.
- ⇒ He/she must not be found within the school boundaries. (Parents has to pick them up immediately)
- ⇒ Suspended students must return to school with their parents for a conference.
- ⇒ Disciplinary records will follow students from one grade to the next.
- ⇒ *Note:- warrant immediate expulsion.*

(D) MERIT

- ⇒ The best-behaved students in the class.
- ⇒ A child who was never absent always did his homework or never came late for the term.
- ⇒ Emerge as the student with the highest score for a marking period or test.
- ⇒ Got all the problems right.
- ⇒ Completed reading a book or several books.
- ⇒ A good team player.
- ⇒ Helpful to other students etc;

BULLYING

Any mistreatment, threatening, rumor spreading, or hurting of other students is unacceptable. Students will have severe consequences if they continue to bully or intimidate others.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND TOYS

Students are not allowed to bring any electronic devices to school. Electronic devices are anything that has an on-and-off switch ex: cellphones, iPad, tablets, laptops, video games, ..etc. Students are also not allowed to bring any toys from home. If a unique item was requested to be brought from home by the teacher, these items should go immediately to the teacher and not be kept with the students all day. The school will not be responsible for toys, games, or electronic equipment. In case students bring any of these items to school, all teachers and administrators have the right to confiscate those items, and a parent must retrieve them. The school is not responsible for any item that was confiscated and lost.

STUDENTS PICTURES

Throughout the school year, teachers and administrators will take pictures of students working and doing different activities. All pictures taken will only be used by Al-Qalam Academy for school purposes. Pictures will be placed in the school's monthly newsletter, inside classrooms, student of the month bulletin board and rising stars bulletin board, or in hallways to encourage students' engagement and participation. If you do not wish for your child/children to be part of these pictures and activities, please let the school principal and or administrative assistant know of this request.

INTERNET AND COMPUTER USE POLICY

Students are not allowed to use the school internet network for personal use. Students are only allowed to use the internet if allowed by the teacher and only to complete school assignments under the teacher's supervision....

FUNDRAISING

Operating a school requires a great deal of money. Parents are strongly encouraged to participate in all fundraising activities of the school. They should actively seek to include their relatives, friends, and other community members.

Our school has been paramount in educating Muslim children. Our graduates have gone on to pursue higher education in prestigious colleges. Our goal is to produce responsible American Muslim citizen leaders for this nation who can take the responsibility of bringing Islam to the masses.

On the authority of Abu Hurairah that the Prophet said:

"Whosoever removes a worldly grief from a believer, Allah will remove from him one of the griefs of the Day of Judgment. Whosoever alleviates [the lot of] a needy person, Allah will alleviate [his lot] in this world and the next. Whosoever shields a Muslim, Allah will shield him in this world and the next. Allah will aid a servant [of His] so long as the servant aids his brother. Whosoever follows a path to seek knowledge therein, Allah will make easy for him a path to Paradise. No people gather together in one of the houses of Allah, reciting the Book of Allah and studying it among themselves, without tranquility descending upon them, mercy enveloping them, the angels surrounding them, and Allah making mention of them amongst those who are with Him. Whosoever is slowed down by his actions will not be hastened forward by his lineage." An-Nawawi's 40 Hadith - Hadith no: 36 Al-Muslim