



FROM SEEDS TO MIGHTY TREES

A journey of passion and resolve



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Proof-read by Irfan Akram

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Sama-O-Basr

لَوْجِهَ اللَّهِ لَا نُرِيدُ مِنْكُمْ جَزَاءً وَلَا شُكُورًا

Only for Allah's pleasure! We neither seek reward from you nor thanks.

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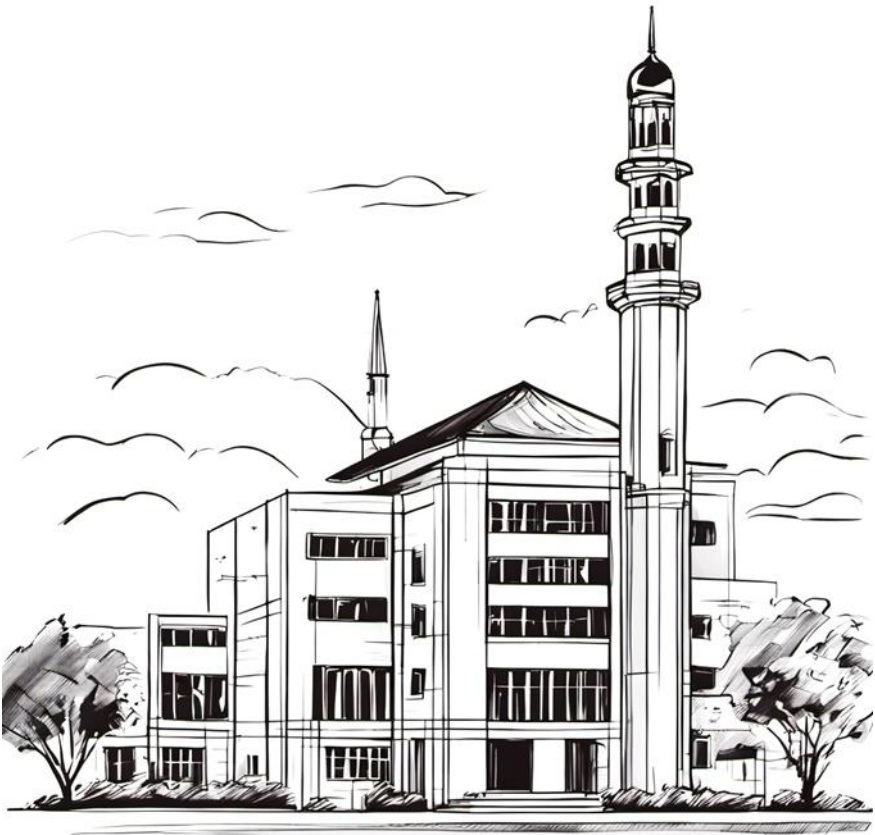
TABLE OF CONTENTS

MRS. SIDDIQUI EXPLAINS THE PROCESS OF LEARNING	2
SHAYKH MUSTAFA'S SOULFUL ADVICE	8
THE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL OF THE MOTIVATED YOUNG HEARTS AND MINDS	11
THE VISION FOR "UNITY GARDEN PROJECT" TAKES SHAPE	16
SEEKING KNOWLEDGE AND GUIDANCE	17
MR. KHAN INTRODUCES CHILDREN TO ICAN	19
A CLEAR DIRECTION	23
THE JOURNEY BEGINS: SPARKS OF ACTION	26
DREAMS TRANSFORMED TO REALITY	28
CULTIVATING UNITY: THE BLOSSOMING OF 'UNITY GARDEN'	28
CHARITY DRIVE FOR THE NEEDY:	31
EMPOWERING MINDS, STRENGTHENING HEARTS:.....	32
SPREADING LIGHT THROUGH BYTES:.....	34
FACING CHALLENGES AND GROWING STRONGER:	36
ECHOES OF CHANGE: INSPIRING STORIES FROM THE HEART	39
THE JOURNEY CONTINUES.....	42
COMPLETING THE CYCLE: THE RETURN TO ICAN	44
REFLECTING ON THE ODYSSEY OF UNITY: 20 YEARS IN THE MAKING.....	46
A HEARTFELT SURPRISE	48

FROM SEEDS TO MIGHTY TREES

CHAPTER 1

**MRS. SIDDIQUI EXPLAINS THE PROCESS OF
LEARNING**



In the lively city of Perth, in the neighbourhood of Maddington, there was a bunch of students who went to Ummul Qura Islamic

FROM SEEDS TO MIGHTY TREES

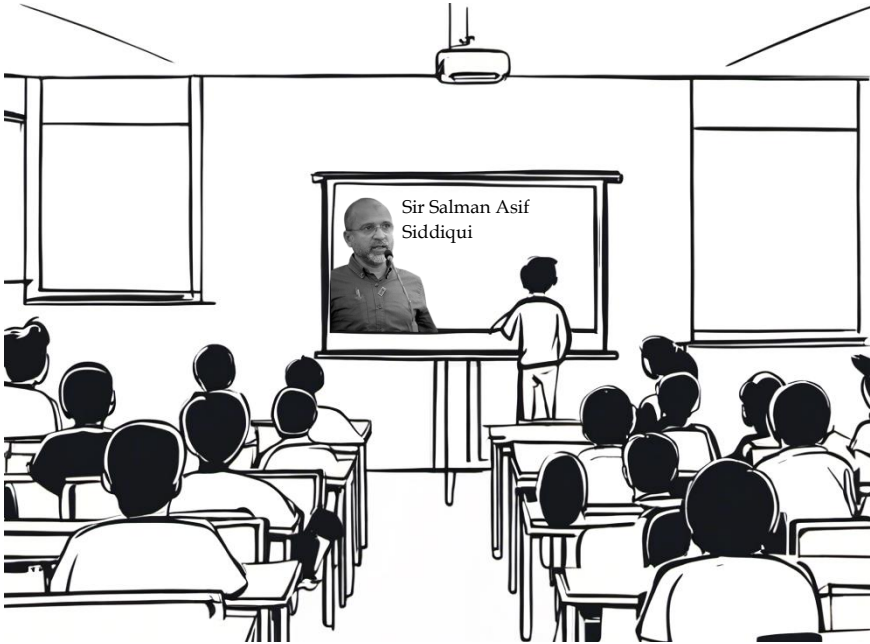
School. Mrs. Siddiqui, their teacher, was well-known for making learning exciting, filled with the spirit of faith. One sunny morning, she chose to take her class on an amazing journey of learning.



"Today, my dear students," Mrs. Siddiqui began with a gleam in her eyes, "we're embarking on a spiritual voyage into the wonders of learning to discover its beautiful nature, inspired by the teachings of our faith." The children's eyes sparkled with curiosity as they gathered around their teacher. "But Mrs. Siddiqui," Aisha asked,

"how can we discover the beauty of learning?" Mrs. Siddiqui smiled warmly. "Ah, Aisha, that's the beauty of it! Our faith explains that the wonders of knowledge and wisdom open up for us as we embrace the natural way of learning, as Allah intended."

The teacher announced, "We will watch together a lecture by renowned scholar, Salman Asif Siddiqui, and I will summarise some key points from it." With that, she asked Amir to turn on the classroom projector screen, and the lecture began to show for the class to watch.



"Learning is a Natural Process!" Mrs. Siddiqui began explaining, "Children, did you know that Allah has blessed you with an innate desire to seek knowledge? You are like inquisitive explorers, eager to uncover the wonders of His creation!"

The children's faces radiated with understanding as they nodded enthusiastically, recognizing the signs of Allah's wisdom.

"Playing is an excellent means for learning!" Mrs. Siddiqui continued. "Play is a precious gift from Allah. It's how you learn best! When you play, you experiment, make mistakes, and discover solutions, all by Allah's design."



Usman, that super-observant kid in our class, had this to say, breaking it down: "I've totally seen this, you know? When me and my friends hit the playground, it's like a big adventure! We cook up smart plans to score, and we split up the jobs between us. Then we

all come together, like a team of superheroes, trying to win and stuff. We give each other high-fives because we're all going for the same prize. If there's ever a fight, we make peace real quick, you know. We can't win if we keep fighting. We hustle real hard during our game time, no slacking off. And, oh boy, we make sure to guard ourselves from the other team's sneaky moves! I sometimes think about this later on. I learn so much while playing."

"Excellent observation, Usman!", Mrs. Siddiqui complimented. The students exchanged excited glances, imagining the adventures they could embark upon as they played and learned.

"The Role of Adults!" Mrs. Siddiqui started explaining another section of the lecture by Salman Asif Siddiqui, "We adults are here to guide and support you, in accordance with Allah's teachings. We help you when needed, but we should never stifle your natural curiosity or impose unnecessary rigid restrictions."

The children wore smiles of gratitude as they acknowledged their teacher's wisdom, delighted that their teacher comprehended their emotions and the factors that inspired or disheartened them.

"As for the challenges we may face," Mrs. Siddiqui continued, "remember that our faith teaches us to seek knowledge wherever it may be, even if it means travelling to distant lands. We should learn from the experience of others and benefit from the wisdom they acquired while experiencing challenging situations. Education is not confined to the four walls of a classroom but extends to the vast world Allah has created."

The students acknowledged with nods, realising that the entire world could serve as their learning environment.

"In our journey of individualised learning," Mrs. Siddiqui advised, "remember that Allah has blessed each of you with unique talents and abilities. Embrace these gifts and use them to benefit yourselves and your community." As they reflected on their unique strengths, the students experienced a profound sense of purpose.

"As for assessment and testing," Mrs. Siddiqui teased, a mischievous gleam in her eye, "prepare for a surprise, dear students." The students exchanged curious glances; their intrigue piqued.

Mrs. Siddiqui paused for a moment, letting the anticipation build, and then she revealed, "No, there are no classroom tests for you today. Instead, we're about to explore some fascinating aspects related to testing." As the students breathed a collective sigh of relief, their expressions transformed into a mixture of eager curiosity and anticipation, signalling their readiness to delve deeper into the topic.

"Always remember," Mrs. Siddiqui emphasised, "Allah is the ultimate Judge. He observes our intentions and the effort we invest in our pursuits. While worldly assessments hold significance in some ways, they should never overshadow our intention to seek knowledge for His sake. No one in the world can judge our true potential. There are great things that all of you can do. You must discover the inner spark and potential that Allah has instilled within you. With these blessings of Allah, you can bring about great change in the world." With these wise words, Mrs. Siddiqui shared her counsel with the young students, leaving them inspired and humbled by the profound connection between their faith and their quest for knowledge.



SHAYKH MUSTAFA'S SOULFUL ADVICE



At that moment, Shaykh Mustafa Ibrahim, a highly regarded scholar and the Imam, made his entrance. The room seemed to light up with respect as he walked in, his wisdom and kindness apparent to all. Mrs. Siddiqui acknowledged him with a nod and warmly greeted, "Assalamu Alaikum, Shaykh Mustafa. We are deeply honoured by your presence today."

"Wa Alaikum Assalam Wa Rahmatullah Mrs. Siddiqui and dear students," Shaykh Mustafa greeted them with a gentle smile. The students exchanged excited glances, feeling humbled by the presence of such a learned scholar.

Shaykh Mustafa took a step forward and addressed the students with respect and kindness. He said, "I couldn't resist being part of this gathering of young thinkers discussing learning and faith. It's a wonderful subject that's crucial for each of us as the Ummah of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ!" A profound silence settled over the classroom as the students attentively listened to the highly respected Shaykh. As he spoke about the power of learning and faith, curious questions arose among the students.

Sana raised her hand, her eyes filled with curiosity. "Shaykh Mustafa, how can our search for knowledge help everyone in our community?" Abdullah chimed in, "What can we do to actually make a difference?"

FROM SEEDS TO MIGHTY TREES

"Each of you," Shaykh Mustafa emphasised, "has the potential to contribute to the revival of our Ummah's glory. Your education, your faith, and your unity are the keys to progress."



As the class concluded, Shaykh Mustafa prepared to depart but not before leaving the students with a powerful message. "Dear students," he said, his voice filled with warmth and conviction, "remember that knowledge is a trust from Allah. With great

knowledge comes great responsibility. As you embark on this journey of learning and strive to uplift our Ummah, always carry this trust with humility and dedication."

"Inspired by your newfound knowledge and the burning desire to make a resounding impact on the Ummah," Shaykh Mustafa continued, his voice filled with passion, "May Allah bless all of you abundantly! Can you reflect on how to put what I mentioned into practice? What are the next steps you can consider? Take a moment to ponder. I have great hope and confidence in each one of you. Together, you can achieve great new heights."

"His words shone in the air like bright stars, igniting a strong sense of responsibility in the students." They comprehended that their pursuit of knowledge served a dual purpose, fostering not only their personal development but also enabling them to play a role in enhancing the well-being of their fellow Muslims and the global Ummah.



THE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL OF THE MOTIVATED YOUNG HEARTS AND MINDS



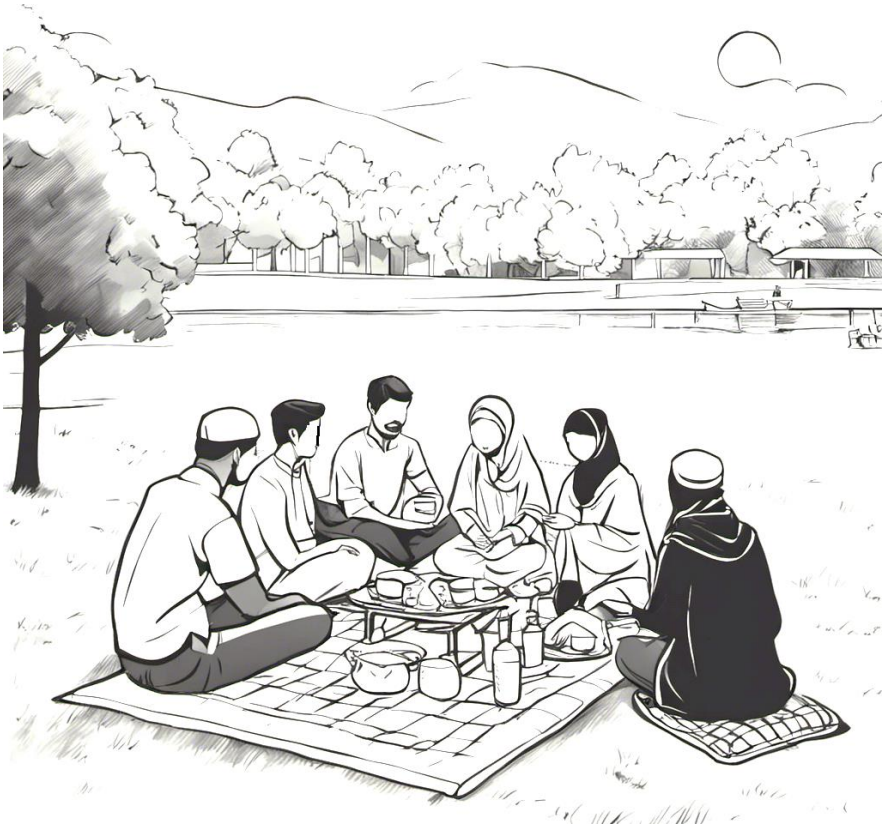
After Shaykh Mustafa's inspiring message, the students spilled out into the school playground, their hearts and minds buzzing with excitement. The bright Perth sun warmed their faces as they gathered in small groups, eager to brainstorm practical steps they could take to fulfil Shaykh Mustafa's call for action.



FROM SEEDS TO MIGHTY TREES

Ayesha, Ahmed, Sarah, Abdullah, Zainab, and Rashid assembled in a circle near the playground's exhilarating red slide. Just like their peers were sliding down it, they felt as though ideas were cascading into their minds. They rested on the lush green lawn, their expressions full of energy. They began enthusiastically exchanging their ideas with each other, igniting a creative wildfire of inspiration.

Ayesha said with excitement shining in her eyes, "how about we plan a big picnic for everyone in our community, invite Muslims from different backgrounds, and hear their stories and experiences?"



Ahmed nodded to convey his agreement and said, "And hey, why not kick off a campaign to share food and clothes with those who need them, just like how Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) taught us?"



The ideas flowed like a river, and the students couldn't contain their enthusiasm. Sarah shared her own story of volunteering at a local women shelter and how it had opened her eyes to the importance of giving back.

Abdullah added to the conversation, recounting his experience of visiting a nursing home with his parents, highlighting the joy it brought to the elderly residents.

Rashid pondered deeply about these ideas, firing off questions to delve deeper into their thoughts. His mind raced, envisioning the thrilling path from idea to reality and strategizing the resources required to bring their dreams to life.



FROM SEEDS TO MIGHTY TREES

As they engaged in conversations and shared their personal stories, a significant revelation dawned upon them—the tremendous potential that lay within their collective ideas. Each student brought a unique perspective to the table, showcasing the diversity of thought and experience among them. However, it was when they merged their thoughts and ideas that they began to comprehend aspects that were beyond the reach of any one of them individually. This realization mirrored the wisdom behind the beautiful Sunnah of our master, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, which emphasizes the importance of listening to others, seeking their opinions, and making decisions through consultation.

Amidst this fertile exchange of ideas, the school playground underwent a remarkable transformation. It evolved into a dynamic hub of creativity and inspiration, where students from various backgrounds converged with a shared purpose. Their unity, fuelled by the synergy of their diverse perspectives, not only nurtured creativity but also sparked a collective aspiration for something greater.



CHAPTER 4

**THE VISION FOR "UNITY GARDEN PROJECT" TAKES
SHAPE**



Their brainstorming session under the warm Perth sun gave birth to the "Unity Garden Project." They envisioned it as a comprehensive initiative that would not only promote unity but also address various needs within the Muslim community.

With this project, they planned to organize events like cultural festivals, storytelling sessions, and community service activities. Their aim was to foster unity among Muslims from diverse backgrounds, create opportunities for intellectual and spiritual growth, and serve as a source of support and assistance for those in need. The playground echoed with their laughter and excitement as they discussed the positive impact their project could have on their community and the Ummah at large. Motivated by their conversations and narratives, they were prepared to commence this exciting expedition of togetherness, education, and altruism.

While observing their enthusiasm from afar, Shaykh Mustafa couldn't suppress a smile, his heart brimming with hope and faith in the extraordinary potential held by these young minds. Inside his heart, he knew that one day he would see these young children as the leaders of the Australian Muslim community.

SEEKING KNOWLEDGE AND GUIDANCE

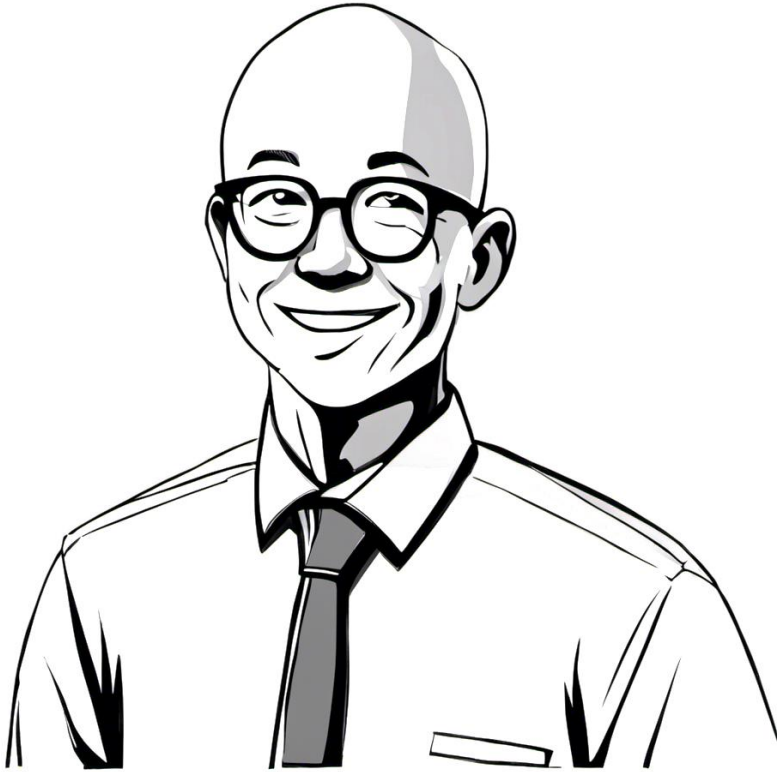


The next day, the students gathered once again, their excitement undiminished. They were determined to turn their vision for the "Unity Garden Project" into a reality. While formulating their course of action, the children remembered the importance of continuous learning and seeking knowledge as emphasized by Mrs. Siddiqui. They knew they needed to gather more information and insights to embark on their project successfully.

Saadia, ever the thinker, brought up the significance of seeking knowledge. "We gotta learn a bunch of stuff for this project, and we should be ready to pick up knowledge from those who know a lot." Sarah nodded in agreement, "Yeah, you're right! Let's put our heads together and figure out how to learn better and who can help us with that."

Ayesha, the proactive thinker of the group, suggested, "I think we should reach out to iCAN, the Islamic Circle of Australia and New Zealand. They do a lot of community activities. My family and I have attended their Quran Circles and other programs. They might have the resources and experience to help us get started."

The idea resonated with the group, and they agreed that contacting iCAN was a wise first step. Their curiosity piqued, they decided to approach their school principal, Mr. Abdul Latif Khan, to learn more about iCAN and how to get in touch with them.



After their productive brainstorming session, the students were certain about their next steps. They chose to seek Brother Khan's wisdom and collaborate with the experienced iCAN team, which has successfully executed numerous community projects. Their goal was to accumulate knowledge, much like adding one light to another, by combining Brother Khan's wisdom with the practical expertise of iCAN, the largest grassroots organization in Australia. The young volunteers demonstrated an effective method of learning from various sources and building upon their insights.

MR. KHAN INTRODUCES CHILDREN TO ICAN



With their newfound plan in mind, the students went on to meet Mr. Khan. They elaborated on their aspiration to collaborate with the iCAN team for their "Unity Garden Project" and their intention to seek guidance and mentorship from seasoned community members.

Mr. Khan, a supportive and resourceful leader, welcomed the students into his office. He listened attentively as they explained about their project.

With a warm and appreciative smile, Mr. Khan leaned forward, his eyes reflecting genuine admiration. "I must say, your thought process and the creation of this remarkable project idea are truly commendable," he began. "Moreover, your decision to connect with the iCAN team is a strategic move, as collaboration and synergies often yield exceptional outcomes."

He leaned back, preparing to share valuable insights. "iCAN, you see, is a dynamic organization entirely devoted to nurturing the intellectual and social well-being of our Muslim community here in Australia. Within its framework, there exist several departments, each dedicated to the advancement of a specific facet of our community's development. When you collaborate with them, their expertise will surely light the way for your project's journey." Mr. Khan's words carried the weight of experience and wisdom.

He then went on to describe the various departments within iCAN

so that the children could learn about what this organization has on offer:

- Sama-O-Basr: Discovering Wisdom Through Books: This department is all about publishing captivating books that unlock the treasures of knowledge.
- iCAN College: Nurturing Knowledge Seekers: iCAN College offers an extensive array of 70 Islamic courses, featuring teachings from renowned scholars worldwide. What makes it remarkable? All these valuable courses are available completely free of charge. Explore the world of Islamic knowledge at www.IslamicCollege.com.au and embark on a journey of learning and enlightenment.
- Australian Islamic Library: Your Gateway to Learning: It provides free access to a wealth of books and educational resources.
- Gain Peace: Sharing the Beauty of Islam: Engaging in dawah efforts to introduce Islam to non-Muslims, inviting them to explore its wonders.
- Students Wing: Guiding Your Educational Journey: This department works closely with university students to support their educational and spiritual growth.
- iCAN Relief: Extending a Helping Hand: They provide relief and charity to community members in need, showcasing the power of compassion in action.
- iCAN Trust: Building Our Faith Together: Their goal is to build mosques and Islamic centres, fostering a strong foundation for our faith.
- PDD (Personal Development Department): Nurturing Personal Growth: They organize Quran and hadith circles,

community workshops, and study circles to enrich personal development.

- **Women Wing: Empowering Women, Building Communities:** Focusing on initiatives tailored specifically for women, it aims to uplift and strengthen the community.
- **YMNA (Young Muslims Network Australia): Shaping Future Leaders:** This department works with children and young adults to foster leadership and community involvement, guiding them toward a bright future.



Rashid's excitement was palpable as he learned about the organization's wide array of services. His eyes gleamed, and he couldn't help but exclaim, "Wow, this organization does so many things! It's so cool. We're really lucky to have it in our community. Alhamdulillah. I wish I could join them someday." Br. Khan's eyes welled up with tears of joy, and he responded, "You can certainly become a part of it one day. Organizations like iCAN, which operate solely to seek the pleasure of Allah, need individuals like you. Organizations are shaped by people, and they welcome anyone who wishes to make a positive change in society. You, my son, will undoubtedly be a part of them one day, in sha Allah." Rashid's enthusiasm and Br. Khan's encouragement had a contagious effect on the other children who had gathered around. They all nodded in agreement, their hearts swelling with the same feelings of gratitude and excitement.

Observing the students' enthusiasm, Mr. Khan couldn't help but smile, knowing they were headed in the right direction. "For your project," he suggested, "I recommend reaching out to Ibtesam Bashir, the individual in charge of YMNA. He can assist you in commencing your initiative and offer valuable guidance. Learning from those who have traversed this path before us isn't merely about gaining knowledge; it's about inheriting their wisdom and experiences, which can illuminate our journey ahead." The students were undoubtedly eager to embrace this guiding light.



A CLEAR DIRECTION



Leaving Mr. Khan's office, the students were infused with newfound purpose and a clear direction. They recognized that the path ahead held immense potential. Determined to take the next step, they organized a meeting with Ibtesam Bashir, a man whose extensive experience in serving the community through various projects in Perth, Alice Springs, Darwin, and other regions had earned him respect and admiration.

Anticipation crackled in the air as the students gathered their ideas, brimming with excitement for their upcoming meeting with Ibtesam. Their destination was the Ummul Qura Masjid, a place where their dreams and aspirations would unfold.

As the students entered the mosque, Ibtesam warmly welcomed them, his eyes reflecting genuine curiosity as he prepared to delve into their ideas. The students' zeal was palpable, infusing the room with their vibrant energy. Ibtesam Bashir, struck by their passion and dedication, immediately dove into the conversation with a series of thought-provoking questions. The atmosphere crackled with excitement as the dialogue unfolded, and the exchange of ideas began to spread like a contagious wave.

Together, they began careful planning for their ambitious "Unity Garden Project." They gathered around tables with sketches, ideas in notebooks, and laptops for research. During brainstorming

sessions, they outlined the steps required to execute the project, moving closer to realizing their dream. This highlighted the strength of their teamwork and determination.



They came up with the following plan of action:

1. Clarifying project's vision and objective: Discuss the project's goals, objectives, and expected outcomes.
2. Project Definition: Clearly define the scope, including the events

and activities, of the project they planned to organize.

3. Resource Assessment: Identify the resources needed, such as volunteers, materials, and venues.
4. Timelines: Create a timeline outlining when each activity or event would take place.
5. Budgeting: Develop a budget for the project, including potential sources of funding or sponsorships.
6. Promotion and Outreach: Plan how to reach out to the community and promote their project.
7. Measurement and Evaluation: Establish criteria to measure the project's success and gather feedback.

During their discussion, as the students and Ibtesam delved deeper into these aspects, a sense of accomplishment and anticipation filled the room. They felt as though the seeds of their project were being carefully nurtured, poised to thrive. They recognized that there might be challenges in the beginning, but their hope rested in a saying of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) that holds a treasure trove of wisdom: "The example of a believer is that of a fresh tender plant; from whatever direction the wind comes, it bends it, but when the wind becomes quiet, it becomes straight again." (Sahih al-Bukhari)

Armed with a clear plan, guidance from experienced mentors, and an unwavering desire to make their "Unity Garden Project" a resounding success, they were eager to embark on their journey, much like the young plant that may sway but ultimately stands tall and firm.



THE JOURNEY BEGINS: SPARKS OF ACTION



With their plan locked in, the students embarked on a mission to turn their dreams into reality. Together, they fine-tuned the project's goals, objectives, and expected outcomes.

Their vision, the "Unity Garden Project," aimed to nurture and grow the countless talents within the community and promote unity. They sought to make this journey both enjoyable for themselves and the community. To infuse excitement, they devised a captivating lineup of activities, featuring cultural festivals, storytelling sessions, and community service initiatives. The team meticulously prepared for these activities by evaluating their resource requirements, scouting suitable venues, customizing their approach to their audience, and crafting a comprehensive timeline. They even got their hands dirty with budgeting and fundraising to ensure their project had the necessary funds.

But the real magic happened when they reached out to the broader community. Ayesha, Ahmed, Sarah, and Rashid, driven by their strong enthusiasm, used social media and connected with local mosques. While others spent their time on random and unproductive social media activities, these kids were harnessing the platform's potential for a very special purpose. With their parents' support, they passionately shared the message of unity's strength and the value of mutual learning. Their heartfelt words deeply resonated, strengthening the community's bonds.



The response was overwhelming, and the community rallied behind their cause. Volunteers offered their time and expertise, local businesses offered sponsorships, and individuals contributed to the project's fundraising efforts. The project team now moved on to the practical implementation of what they learned about how to commence their project.



DREAMS TRANSFORMED TO REALITY



Cultivating Unity: The Blossoming of 'Unity Garden'

With determination in their eyes, the students embarked on their "Unity Garden" journey, filled with adventure, excitement, and a few challenges. They aimed to transform their project from mere words on paper into a tangible, visually striking representation of its objectives. Recognizing the power of practical demonstrations, they set out to create an innovative showcase to convey their mission's essence to their peers.

During this brainstorming process that they hit upon a brilliant idea – to translate their project's core concepts into a hands-on experience. This way, they could make these values more accessible and engaging. They recognized that gardening presented a distinct opportunity for this undertaking. With gardening as their practical example, they aimed to foster not only plant growth but also cultivate a deeper comprehension of unity, patience, and the strength of collective efforts within their school community. They envisioned a beautiful garden where various seeds, each symbolizing the rich talents and backgrounds within their community, would be thoughtfully planted. This garden, they imagined, would bloom with a vibrant array of plants, just as their community thrived due to its diversity. With excitement and determination, they set out to turn this vision into reality, ready to nurture both their garden and the values it represented.



As they cared for these plants, watering them with diligence, they would learn firsthand the importance of patience and teamwork, much like Allah nurtures His creation. As time passed, their garden flourished with vibrant green colours, each plant representing a unique contribution to the overall beauty, much like the unity in diversity they aimed to achieve. This hands-on approach would serve as a living testament to their commitment to these principles, making their project come to life in a vibrant and educational way.

FROM SEEDS TO MIGHTY TREES



The growing plants in their garden would stand as a powerful metaphor for the diverse talents that, when nurtured and tended to with care, could flourish and thrive in unity.

Eager to share their innovative concept and its underlying values, the students presented their vision to their fellow students. They explained how the garden symbolized unity in diversity, with each plant representing a unique contribution within their school

community. As they described the process of nurturing these plants and drawing parallels to the importance of patience, teamwork, and care in achieving their collective goals, their peers began to understand the profound objectives of the "Unity Garden" project. Inspired and enlightened, they too pledged their support, eager to contribute to this beautiful and meaningful endeavour.

Charity Drive for the Needy:

Aisha, the fundraising dynamo, ignited the community's spirit with electrifying charity drives, and their journey began with the very first steps toward this noble endeavour. They faced questions like where to collect funds, how to find people in need, and how to reach out to the less fortunate to deliver the essential items. Drawing inspiration from the timeless wisdom of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (peace be upon him), who said, "The believer's shade on the Day of Resurrection will be their charity," they ventured out to seek solutions. They organized fundraisers, reached out to local charities, and actively engaged with the community to identify those in need.

During these drives, they encountered homeless individuals, orphans, and others experiencing hardship. As they witnessed the suffering and adversity these individuals endured, their resolve became unwavering. The more closely they examined the trials faced by people, the more resolute they became. With every successful charity drive, they collected not only donations, clothing, and food but also gathered invaluable life lessons. They discovered the profound impact of empathy, realizing that aiding one another was not just a responsibility but also a blessing. These encounters laid the foundation for building a united community, tightly knit with strands of compassion and unity.



Empowering Minds, Strengthening Hearts:

With great enthusiasm, the students embarked on a journey to illuminate their community. They organized captivating community sessions as platforms to explore various vital subjects. From comprehending unity in Islam to addressing the challenges encountered by the local Muslim community, these gatherings were genuinely life changing. But their quest for knowledge didn't stop

there. They invited distinguished guest speakers, including scholars and community leaders, to elevate the conversations. The outcome? A rich mosaic of unity crafted from diverse ideas, fortifying the bonds within the community.



In conversations with their peers, both seniors and juniors, the students discovered unique challenges faced by young Muslims today. To address these issues head-on, they organized workshops and discussion sessions on subjects like identity, mental well-being, and the pressures of modern life. These gatherings weren't just classroom lectures; they provided a secure space for offering

guidance and support to their fellow students. They forged a platform for candid and heartfelt dialogues, where youthful hearts could unburden themselves, and young minds could seek solace in shared experiences.

Spreading Light Through Bytes:

The students also used the internet for their quest to spread knowledge about Islam. They used social media to share facts and inspire interest in the religion.

With smart planning and strong enthusiasm, they created an engaging online campaign that combined education and inspiration. They posted thought-provoking images, interesting videos, and heartfelt stories to share Islam's beautiful message with the world.

They started small, but their impact reached far beyond Perth. As their content spread on the internet, it reached people all over the world who were curious about Islam. Each click and view showed how their efforts were reaching a global audience. Yet, among the multitude of hearts touched by their campaign, one story stood out as a beacon of hope and transformation. A sister residing in the distant land of Canada, struggling with her own spiritual quest, stumbled upon the students' videos. Their words, sincere and resonant, sparked a profound journey of self-discovery within her. As she delved deeper into the wisdom shared by these young ambassadors of Islam, her heart found the solace it had been yearning for.

Her quest culminated in a momentous declaration of faith, the sacred shahadah, a testament to the profound impact these students had, transcending boundaries and touching lives across the globe.

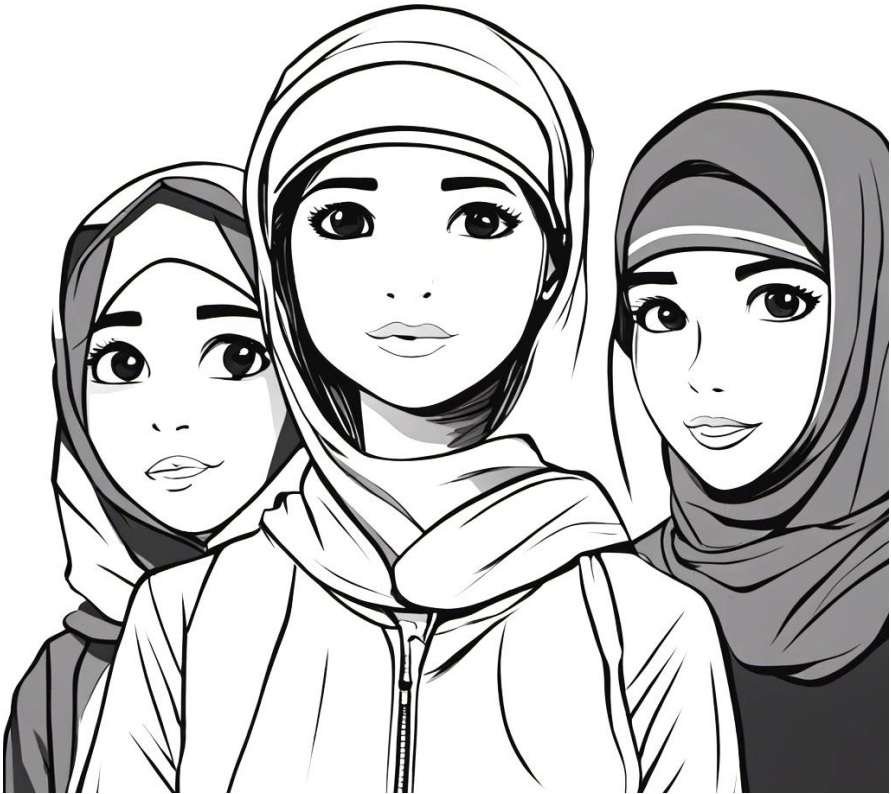


The newfound sister's shahadah in distant Canada became a powerful ripple that reverberated back to the students in Perth, igniting their hearts with an even fiercer determination. Her profound transformation served as a poignant reminder of the immeasurable impact they could have in the world. It was a clear call to duty, urging them to commit their lives to the noble cause of serving Islam and humanity. This call resonated deep within their hearts, stirring their determination to make a meaningful impact.

Drawing inspiration from this heartwarming event, the students came together with renewed enthusiasm and an unwavering commitment to illuminate as beacons of knowledge and wisdom. Their mission had transcended the boundaries of typical school projects and initiatives; it had grown into a lifelong calling. Fuelled by the remarkable potential of their endeavours, they embarked on a journey to deepen their knowledge, enhance their skills, and broaden their reach. Their path was lit by the radiant example of the sister in Canada, a living testament to the transformative power of their work. With hearts ablaze with purpose, they vowed to persevere in their tireless efforts, understanding that each poster, video, and word they shared could serve as a beacon for those in search of truth and comfort. As this awareness grew, spending long hours designing campaign graphics and distributing brochures became a source of joy rather than hardship. They found pleasure in their efforts for the sake of Allah. United in their unwavering commitment to serve Islam, they set out on a lifelong journey, forever connected to the message that ignited their spirits.

Facing Challenges and Growing Stronger:

Their journey was not without obstacles. They faced moments of doubt, encountered logistical challenges in organizing events, and had to balance their school responsibilities. However, they remembered the advice of Shaykh Mustafa and their wise elders, which gave them the strength to overcome these challenges. With every challenge they faced, the students grew stronger and more united. Their journey was filled with laughter, learning, and the joy of making a difference. It was a true adventure, and they were determined to continue their mission, knowing that their impact on the Ummah was just beginning.



As the project progressed, the students worked diligently to assess its effectiveness. They actively sought feedback from participants, valuing their insights to better understand the project's impact. They also closely examined how their events strengthened the bonds within the Muslim community in Perth. Recognizing the need for continuous improvement, the students were committed to refining their initiative. They believed that by gathering feedback and assessing their progress, they could make their project even more impactful, demonstrating their dedication to fostering unity and understanding within the community.



Their efforts were met with resounding success, as the sense of unity and belonging within the community significantly strengthened. Muslims from diverse backgrounds learned from each other, celebrated their differences, and worked together to offer mutual support. The students celebrated each milestone they achieved, fully aware that their endeavours were bringing about positive change in their community.



ECHOES OF CHANGE: INSPIRING STORIES FROM THE HEART



Fueled by their extraordinary journey, each student brought their unique talents to the forefront. Fatima, with her eloquent prose, penned heartfelt stories that conveyed the depths of their challenges, the jubilation of their victories, and the profound personal growth they had experienced along the way. Despite being displayed on computer screens, her narratives possessed such compelling power that it felt as if she was personally present, narrating their stories to the readers.



Ahmed, the gardening enthusiast, contributed a captivating chapter on the transformation of the Unity Garden, capturing its vibrant colours and lush diversity in vivid detail. Aisha, the fundraising expert, added a touching account of their charity drives, emphasizing the lessons they had learned by witnessing the pain of others.

Rashid, the visionary, provided an insightful perspective on how every piece of their project puzzle came together to form a beautiful mosaic of unity and purpose. His narrative revealed the intricate connections between their various endeavours, illustrating how each piece of work fit seamlessly with the others, creating a bigger picture that was far more profound than the sum of its parts.

With every contribution, their shared experiences became more colourful and diverse. Their combined efforts created a captivating story, a mixture of passion and commitment that they thought could motivate others on a similar journey.

After compiling these inspiring stories, the students reached out to iCAN Sama-O-Basr Publications, known for promoting knowledge and unity. They shared their manuscript, showing their strong belief in unity, faith, and positive action. The Sama-O-Basr team was impressed by their dedication and agreed to publish their book, titled "Weaving Unity: A Journey of Inspiration." The book received immense appreciation from the community, and numerous young readers benefited greatly from the wealth of experiences and advice it contained.

As word of their remarkable journey spread beyond their school and community, a ripple of inspiration traversed the globe. Other

schools and organizations, near and far, expressed a keen interest in replicating the model of unity and community betterment the students had pioneered.



The young pioneers were thrilled to see their vision spreading beyond limits, igniting hope and action in the larger Ummah. Their project had become a symbol of what's possible, showing that when united in purpose, even the youngest voices can inspire change.

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES



Their mission of unity and community betterment extended over several years, akin to a steady-flowing river nourishing the land it touched. The seeds sown during their school days had now matured into robust plants, symbolizing the flourishing unity and strength within their community.

Upon graduating from Ummul Qura Islamic School, the original students carried their passion like a guiding lantern through the challenges of university life. Their determination, which had fuelled their earlier endeavours, remained unshaken. They faced a moment of uncertainty, wondering if they could continue their mission amidst the demands of university life. However, their resolve refused to waver. These exceptional individuals not only excelled academically but also left an indelible mark in the realms of service and change. They joined their university's Muslim Students Association (MSA) and wholeheartedly served the student community in various impactful ways, finding creative solutions to continue their mission even in this new chapter of their lives.

In the realm of dawah, they initially underwent training in dawah methodology and subsequently began passionately sharing the beauty of Islam through dawah stalls at a local market. They received intriguing questions during these stalls, which provided them with opportunities to acquire more knowledge and grow as a result.

FROM SEEDS TO MIGHTY TREES

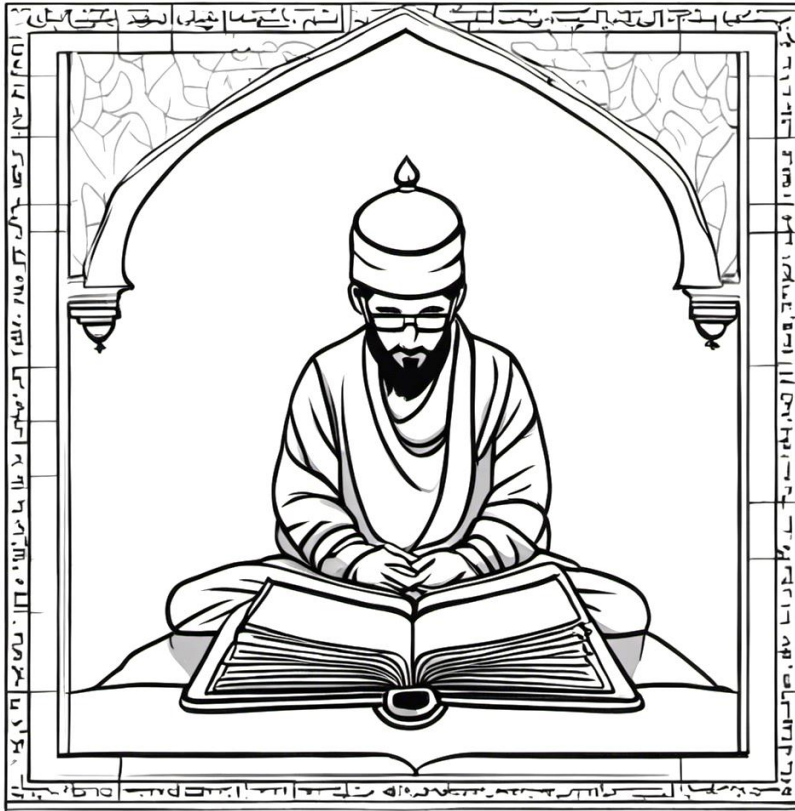
Engaging in community service, they mobilized volunteers to assist the less fortunate, becoming beacons of hope for those in need.



Dedicated to fostering a culture of lifelong learning, they drew inspiration from their own experiences. Their classrooms resounded with the laughter and curiosity of the next generation; each student guided by the wisdom of those who had walked the path before them.

The spirit of charity remained an integral part of their lives. They initiated charitable drives, providing sustenance to the hungry, clothing to the needy, and solace to the distressed. Their acts of kindness evolved into a lifeline for countless families, a testament to the boundless compassion that could emerge from youthful hearts.

COMPLETING THE CYCLE: THE RETURN TO ICAN



After four years of devoted service in their respective universities, the students finally graduated, yet a profound question lingered in

their hearts – how could they continue to translate their knowledge into tangible impact in the practical world outside academia? At this moment, a cherished childhood memory resurfaced, one that held a powerful lesson from the Quran. They remembered an ayah that their teachers had once imparted to them in school:

"As for those who strive for Us, We will surely guide them to Our ways, and indeed Allah is with the doers of good." (Surah Al-'Ankabut, 29:69).

This reminder kindled their desire to seek Allah's guidance through their endeavours, recognizing the paramount importance of this divine guidance for both themselves and humanity at large.

Their longing for Allah's guidance fuelled their determination further, and they begged to Allah SWT for His divine light to illuminate their path. As they supplicated, the memories of iCAN's initial support and its pivotal role in their journey flooded their minds. These memories, coupled with their profound gratitude for the organization's impact on their lives, inspired them to make a collective decision to rejoin iCAN, this time as young adults.

In this new chapter of their journey, they brought not only their unwavering passion but also the skills they had honed throughout their academic pursuits. They became vital contributors to various departments within the organization, infusing iCAN with renewed energy and purpose. Together, they breathed fresh vitality into iCAN, transforming it into a dynamic hub of positive change that radiated throughout the community, leaving a lasting legacy of goodness.

CHAPTER 13

**REFLECTING ON THE ODYSSEY OF UNITY: 20 YEARS
IN THE MAKING**



"This is where it all began. This marks the start of our journey twenty years ago. This is where the idea of the Unity Garden found its roots," Rashid, now the central president of iCAN, emotionally shared their odyssey with the audience at Ummul Qura School.



His voice resonated with unwavering determination as he shared, "I vividly recall the day I sketched the project's timeline. Little did I know that this endeavour would endure for so many years, evolving into a wellspring of transformation within our community. Our story exemplifies the power of unity, faith, and an unwavering zeal for positive change."

He continued, addressing the current students, "You, my dear friends, are no different from what we once were, filled with dreams and ambitions. We planted the seeds of change, and now these seeds have flourished into towering trees, offering shelter and solace to all who seek it. As we embarked on our university journey, we didn't abandon our mission; instead, we carried it forward, thriving in our pursuit. Today, we stand before you as living proof of what can be achieved when you unite with a shared purpose. I invite you all to plant seeds too. Every mighty tree was once encapsulated in a tiny seed. Plant some seeds today and water them every day, irrespective of how small they may be. Remember what our beloved Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, told us: 'The best deeds are those done regularly, even if they are few.' Decide to start doing something today. One day, my dear sons and daughters, you can become giant trees too, and this community will find shade under your branches." Upon hearing these words, a fire ignited in the hearts of the young students, listening attentively to Rashid, ready to embark on their own journeys of positive change. The beauty of a fire in the hearts is that when it is kindled well, it cannot be extinguished, and those who come near a person with a heart on fire catch that fire too. This gathering in Ummul Qura School was certainly a heartfelt display of that.

A HEARTFELT SURPRISE



Among the rapt audience, a figure sat in the midst, distinguished by a white beard and an air of wisdom that time had etched into his countenance. It was none other than Shaykh Mustafa, now an elderly sage, who had returned to witness the fruits of the seeds he had once helped sow and the fires he once lit.



As Rashid concluded his inspirational narrative, the room erupted in applause, and Shaykh Mustafa's eyes glistened with tears of joy. He had never fathomed that his sincere words and guidance would yield such remarkable fruit, that the sparks of inspiration he had ignited would blaze into a roaring fire of positive change.

Rashid, his voice quivering with emotion, turned toward Shaykh Mustafa and expressed, "And here, in our midst today, stands the noble Shaykh Mustafa, whose wisdom and guidance set us on this incredible journey. We owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude to this revered scholar, whose presence in our lives has been a blessing beyond measure."

The room resounded with heartfelt chants of Takbeer, and Shaykh Mustafa's gaze met those of the students he had once inspired. His heart swelled with pride and gratitude, knowing that the legacy of unity, faith, and positive impact would continue to flourish, carried forward by the bright minds and compassionate hearts of the next generation.

Thus, in that enchanted moment within Ummul Qura Islamic School, the circle of inspiration was sealed, serving as a testament to the enduring power of knowledge, faith, and an earnest desire to make the world a better place.



BE EMPTY OF WORRYING. THINK ABOUT
THE ONE WHO CREATED THOUGHT! WHY
DO YOU STAY IN PRISON WHEN THE
DOOR IS WIDE OPEN? (RUMI)



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