

# THE GREETING OF PEACE



**By Ismail Kamdar**

**Illustrated by  
Natheefah Maroof**



**Written by Ismail Kamdar**  
**Illustrated by Natheefah Maroof**  
**Edited by Malika Kahn**

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# CHAPTER 1

## MEET YUSUF

Meet Yusuf.

He is an excitable and happy six year old boy. He lives in Durban, South Africa, and loves his family and school.

Yusuf loves hanging out with his Uncle Abdullah on the weekends.





Every Saturday morning, Yusuf and Uncle Abdullah have a walk in the park and chat about life.



There are three things  
that Yusuf really loves:

family,  
games  
and  
bugs!





# CHAPTER 2

## A WALK

One Saturday morning, Yusuf ran happily to meet his Uncle Abdullah for their walk.

“Hello, Uncle!” Yusuf said excitedly.

“As Salaamu Alaikum, Yusuf,” Uncle Abdullah replied. “How are you?”

“Fine,” Yusuf said.

“Hmmm, I have something I want to talk to you about today, Yusuf. Let’s take a walk,” Uncle Abdullah stated as he started walking through the park.

Yusuf hurried along to keep up with his uncle while admiring the trees and flowers around him.







His favourite was a purple tree in the middle of the park which stood out from the rest. Surrounded by green trees, the purple tree stood tall and proud.



As Yusuf marvelled at it, he heard his uncle say,

**“SUBHANALLAH!”**

“What does that mean, Uncle?” asked Yusuf. “I hear adults say it a lot when they see something beautiful, but I don’t know what it means.”

“Actually, Yusuf. That is what I wanted to talk to you about today.” Uncle Abdullah explained, “There are some important Arabic words you need to know the meaning of.

Today I want to teach you three:

**SUBHANALLAH**

**ALHAMDULILLAH**

and **AS SALAAMU ALAIKUM.**



# CHAPTER 3

## THE BEAUTIFUL CREATION

“What do you think about this purple tree?”  
Uncle Abdullah asked.

“I think it is very pretty,”  
Yusuf replied,  
“but I still don’t  
understand why you  
said Subhanallah when  
you looked at it.”

“Subhanallah means glory  
is for Allah. It is a way of  
praising Allah when we are  
amazed by His Creation,”  
Uncle Abdullah explained.

“I get it.” Yusuf added, “Allah  
made the purple tree, and we  
love it. So we are praising and  
thanking him for making it.  
Am I right?”





“That is correct. Whenever we see something that Allah made, and we feel happiness because of it, we should thank Allah by saying Subhanallah,” Uncle Abdullah explained.

“If you look around you, you will find yourself surrounded by beautiful things that Allah made. The trees, flowers, and animals. He made the universe and everything in it.

The beautiful  
stars,  
planets,

and everything on these  
planets too.”



“He made everything inside of you.

If you  
look  
at the  
things  
you  
are  
made  
of,



you will truly be amazed and say

**SUBHANALLAH!**

This is why we praise Allah always. He is the Creator and always deserves praise for creating such beauty.”



# CHAPTER 4

## THE GOOD LIFE

Uncle Abdullah then explained to Yusuf that the Islamic way to reply to “How are you?” is by saying “Alhamdulillah”.

“But why do we say Alhamdulillah, instead of just saying we are fine?” Yusuf asked.

“That is a good question, Yusuf,” Uncle Abdullah replied. He bent down to look at a

beautiful  
pink  
flower.





Yusuf followed him and sniffed the flower and said, “Subhanallah...I know now what Subhanallah means...but what about Alhamdulillah?” He waited eagerly to learn.

Uncle Abdullah said, “Alhamdulillah means All Praise is for Allah. It means that for every good thing in this world, we praise Allah because He created this world and all of the good in it.

This is why we say Alhamdulillah whenever we get good news,



and when we are asked how we are.”



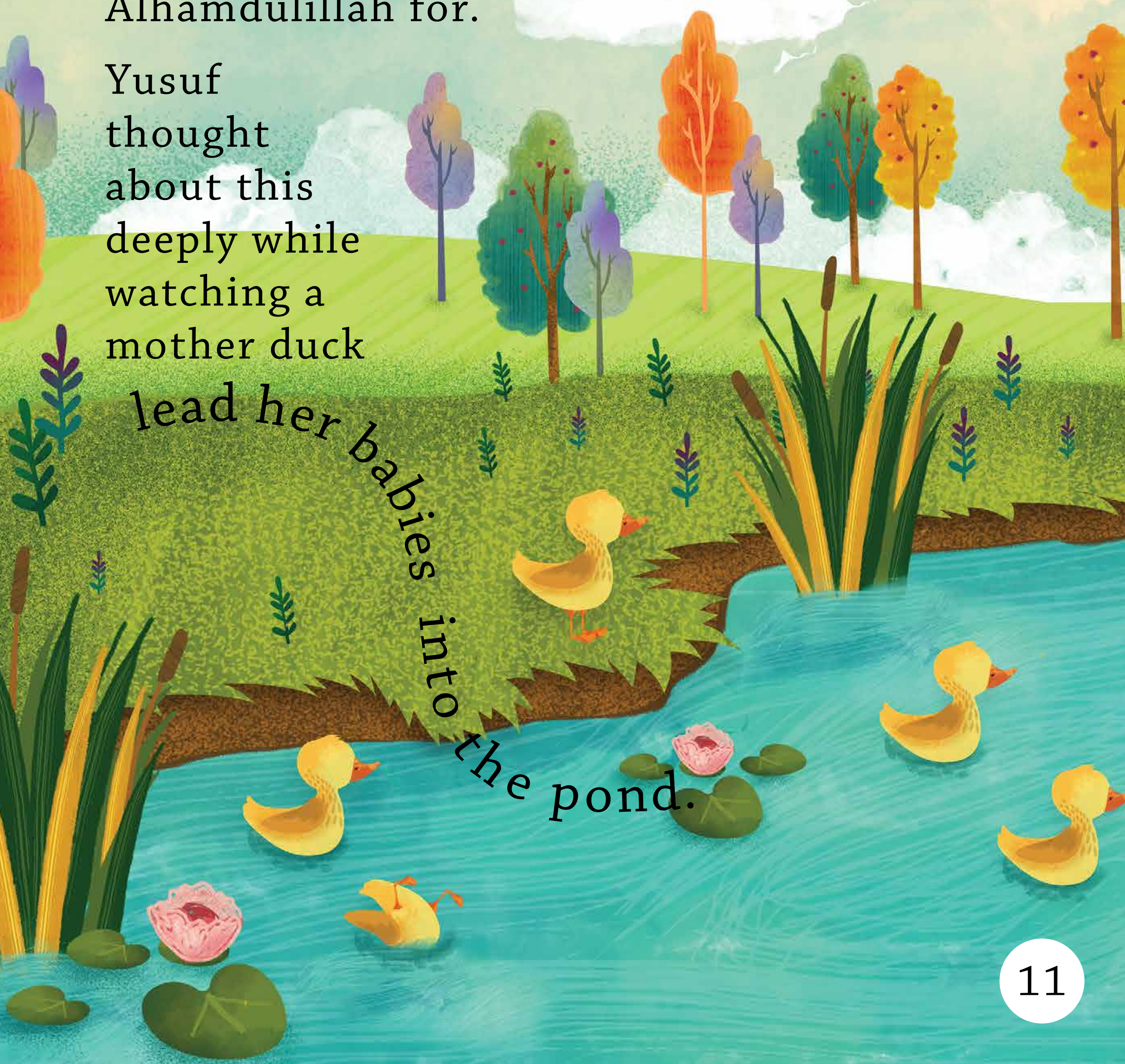
“We are well because Allah made us well, so we say Alhamdulillah. We praise and thank Allah for making us well. And we praise and thank Allah for sending us the good news.”

“But what if I am not well, do I still say Alhamdulillah?” Yusuf asked.

“Yes,” Uncle Abdullah replied. “Because you are alive and a Muslim, and these two reasons alone are enough to say Alhamdulillah for.”

Yusuf  
thought  
about this  
deeply while  
watching a  
mother duck

lead her babies  
into the pond.





He thought about his life, all the good things Allah had given him, and how much he enjoyed being a Muslim child.

He took a deep breath, smiled, and said,

“ALHAMDULILLAH!”





# CHAPTER 5

## THE GREETING OF PEACE

“What does Salaam mean, Uncle?” Yusuf asked. He always wanted to know about this word which he heard so often.

“Salaam means peace,” Uncle Abdullah replied, “It is actually one of Allah’s Beautiful Names. Allah has 99 Beautiful Names that we know of. Each of them teach us one of Allah’s perfect qualities.

One of those names is As-Salaam which means that all peace comes from Allah and He is the source of All Peace.”

“That is so cool. What are some of Allah’s other names?” Yusuf asked.

“Allah is also Ar-Rahman which means He is Most Merciful to the Creation. He is Ar-Raheem which means He has a special Mercy for the Believers.”



“He is Al-Wadud which means The Most Loving and Al-Khaliq which means the Creator of everything.”

Yusuf sat on the grass thinking over these names. He then said, “So this means that peace is very important to Allah, right?”

“Yes,” Uncle Abdullah replied, “Allah’s Attributes teach us what we need to be like. So we need to be peaceful, merciful and loving to our families and friends. This is also why we greet people with peace.”





“So what does As Salaamu Alaikum mean then?” Yusuf asked.

“As Salaamu Alaikum means may Allah’s peace be upon you. This means that when we greet Muslims, we ask Allah to give them peace in their lives.

It is even better to greet people with As Salaamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah Wa Barakatuhu, which means, may Allah’s peace, mercy and blessings be upon you. You see, in Islam, a greeting is actually a dua for the next person. So we should make the best possible dua for others, and we should also reply with an even better dua.”

“What a beautiful religion Islam is, that it teaches us to greet people, wanting peace, mercy and blessings for them,” Yusuf commented.



# CHAPTER 6

## THE RELIGION OF PEACE

“It is not only the greeting of Islam that is peaceful,” Uncle Abdullah said.

“Islam teaches us many important ways to make the world more peaceful.”





“The Prophet (peace be upon him) said:  
The Muslim is the person who others are  
safe from his words and action.

Which means we must never hurt people  
by saying bad things to them or about  
them, or by hurting them physically. A  
Muslim doesn't hurt people without need  
and is a source of peace to the people  
around him.”

Yusuf thought about what Uncle Abdullah  
said. He thought about his own life and  
how he treated his friends. He realized he  
needed to work on how he spoke to them,  
as he could be nicer.

“What else does Islam teach about peace?”  
he asked his uncle.

“Well,” His uncle said, “When the Prophet  
(peace be upon him) moved to Madinah,  
the first thing he taught the people there  
was: spread peace among you.”



He thought for a while and then said,  
“There are so many aspects of Islam that  
teach us to be peaceful. From how we  
treat our parents,

to how

We treat our

neighbours.



Even animals and  
plants have rights in Islam.  
We are not allowed to disturb nature  
without a good reason. For example,  
Muslims are not allowed to kill animals  
unless it is for food or safety. And we are  
not allowed to uproot plants unless we  
need them for something.”





Yusuf was in awe of what his uncle explained to him. He never thought that Islam had laws about how we treat animals and plants.

He looked down at his feet to make sure he wasn't tramping on any insects or crushing any flowers.

Uncle Abdullah had given Yusuf a lot to think about. They walked back home in silence as the sun set behind them. Both of them were deep in thought about everything they spoke about that day.

Yusuf recalled the importance of saying Subhanallah when seeing Allah's beautiful creation, the importance of saying Alhamdulillah for anything good, and the importance of greeting people with peace.





He turned to his uncle and said,  
“Subhanallah,  
the sunset is so beautiful.

Alhamdulillah,

I learned a lot today, but I need  
to go home now. So...

As Salaamu Alaikum!”

“Wa Alaikum Salaam Wa Rahmatullah Wa Barakatuhu!” Uncle Abdullah replied with a gentle laugh. Yusuf then went home, but first he gave his uncle a big hug.





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