

In Memory of Ameer Durrani

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A Noble Character That Impacted So Many Lives

By: Mariya Farooqi

Seeing Ameer leave and return to Allah SWT was one of the most difficult things this community has dealt with together. All of us are coping with this loss in a different way because Ameer meant different things to each and every one of us. In the span of just 11 years Ameer was a son, a brother, a nephew, a cousin, a friend, a student, a classmate, a neighbor and many other things. Everyone was impacted by Ameer in a different way but everyone has said the same

thing about his character: "There was something about Ameer that made you want to shower your love and affection to him, you could never be upset with him for anything."

As we all take time to reflect upon the loss of our dear friend Ameer we find that what helps the most is support from one another. No matter what our differences may be, a community is much like a family. We are there for one another in times of happiness and in times of sorrow. We feel the joy a family feels when there is a baby born and likewise we feel the pain when

someone passes away. This is what binds us together despite our differences. It is what makes the relationship between human beings so special: the ability to empathize with each other.

It is said that words can heal the soul and included in this newsletter are memories, thoughts, and recollections of a noble character that, in such a short time, impacted the lives of so many people.

**"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless."
-Mother Teresa**



Picture from left: Ameer, Rahib, and Shaheer

My Brother Ameer

By: Rahib Iqbal

Ameer Durani was basically my brother. He used to come over almost every weekend. I loved to have him over. We used to play Xbox and we also had sleepovers together. Ameer would never want to leave. He would always ask me to ask his dad if he could sleep over. If he had a choice, I am sure Ameer would have loved to stay at my house all the time.

He was a sports fanatic. He loved every sport and was never afraid to try a new one. Ameer's favorite football team was the Green Bay Packers.

He was a very good person. He always listened and never complained about anything or anyone. He respected others and was very calm. When he won a game of Xbox, he would never brag. He would always

say, "Good game, want to play again?". If he lost, he would take the loss and ask to play again.

Besides Xbox, Ameer also enjoyed to play football. We had many great times playing football together. We would go outside and get a whole group of kids together to play football.

He also came to our house to do Islamic homework with my sister. He was very curious about our religion and would never hesitate to ask about it. My sister and dad would try to satisfy his questions. His main questions were about Jannah and somehow all the questions he asked would be related to Jannah. Some of his questions were, "How do people go to Jannah", and "What is in Jannah?"

He also asked about Lailat-ul-Qadr and how many good deeds you would get if you

stayed up all night. Maybe his soul knew that soon, he would have a place in Jannah, Inshallah. I pray to Allah (SWT) to make a house in paradise for my brother Ameer, Inshallah.

Also, Ameer always wanted to live in White Caps because that is where all his friends were. He loved to hang out and have fun with his friends.

Ameer is a great example for all the kids. He had a great deal of respect for his dad. Because of this quality and a lot of other good qualities, the community will miss him dearly. Ameer Durani will always be in my heart and I hope that you will keep him in your hearts, too.

I pray to Allah (SWT) that he would give patience and strength to Uncle Durani and brother Ibrahim for their loss. Ameen. **Ina lilahi-wa-ilaihi raji'un: "We belong to Allah (SWT), and to him we return."**

"Ameer is a great example for all the kids. He had a great deal of respect for his dad. Because of this quality and a lot of other good qualities, the community will miss him dearly."

In the Face of Trials

By: Aisha Patel

Whenever we find ourselves facing hardship and sorrow, we try to lessen our pain by telling ourselves what we have heard so often by others. "It is a test from Allah SWT", "look to those who have less than you", "patience at times of hardship earns great rewards." These phrases that we have concluded from the teachings of the Holy Quran and our beloved Prophet PBUH help us in accepting our loss and staying strong in our belief. However, it is such situations in which our imaan is tested the most. We face all sorts of challenges in life, from a minor injury to the loss of a loved one. Some grievances are hard to overcome through these phrases alone.

On the one hand, believing in Al-Qadr is a fundamental part of Islam, while on the other hand, we are to accept our losses patiently, considering it a challenge, or a test of our imaan. Though we humbly accept that Allah SWT does not need reasoning for the way he has set our beliefs and laws, it is natural for someone to ask why Allah SWT puts our imaan through challenges and tests us in our patience when all is predestined.

No doubt, having to deal with hardships distinguishes the patient from the impatient and gives us a chance to earn reward.

"Give good tidings to the patient, who when disaster strikes them, say 'indeed we belong to Allah, Indeed to Him we will return'. Those are the ones upon whom are blessings from their Lord and mercy. And it is those who are the (rightly

guided" (Al Baqarah 155-157)

Hardships can be seen as more than a way to test us though. Allah is the creator of everything and is not reliant upon anything. And although destiny is predetermined by Allah, He has created us with the capability to worship Him by giving us the ability to choose our actions. When faced with a hardship, Allah does not need for us to perform good deeds, neither is He harmed by our wrongdoing. However, these challenges of hardships help us in becoming closer to Allah and to wholeheartedly realize our goals.

Overcoming challenges, in spite of how impossible they may first seem, have a polishing and softening effect on the heart and eventually change our entire perspective. When outwardly we are being patient and accept our loss, it leads to inward submission. When we deal with everyday hardships, fulfill personal needs (eating, sleeping), perform obligations such as prayer, and face the loss of a loved one, we do so for the sake of Allah, constantly and readily submitting ourselves to His will. We patiently accept the challenges we come across and stay steadfast on our belief with the intention of drawing closer to Allah.

It is considered a blessing to own a heart that is truly submissive to Allah, full of love and gratitude for Him. We tame our hearts and begin to perform our obligations with heartfelt gratitude for the innumerable blessing we are given by Allah. To realize such a state is to realize true love for Allah. Such a person will not worry over possible future problems, nor will he grieve over past difficulties, for he is busy with the One he loves. This is true happiness and anyone who misses out on it will never know the meaning of contentment.

"It is amazing the issue of a believer,

because everything for him is good and this is only for a believer and no one else. If something befalls on him, he thanks God for it and that is good for him. But if he is stricken with something bad, he patiently preserves and again, this is good for him.” (Muslim)

Number One Fan

By: Nyla Shah

Ameer was not only my neighbor; he was my best friend and my little brother. We did everything together. We played basketball together, attended the same school for three years, watched movies together, and we went on trips together. Ameer was the sweetest, kindest boy that always wanted everyone to get along and hated conflicts and tension. If I was behind in my chores, he'd help me get caught up so I wouldn't get in trouble. Ameer knew how to converse with everyone. He was friends with everybody regardless of their age or background or even race. He enjoyed social gatherings and sport games. He was extremely innocent and naive. He always questioned cruelties like lynching's and the holocaust. He just didn't understand why or how such horrible things happened in this world.

Ameer had a family who would stay by his side no matter what and wouldn't let anything in the world harm him. He always looked up to his brother, Ibrahim. Ibrahim inspired Ameer to play basketball, to get a good education and to have nice taste in fashion. Ameer also had a magnificent dad. Ameer's uncles were just as supportive, Naser Uncle would always come in a flash, from overseas, whenever they needed something. Shazad Uncle is the busiest surgeon I know, but he still made

time for Ameer no matter what. And, Anwar Uncle just loved Ameer to pieces, anything he wanted, Anwar Uncle would get him that very second. Ameer also had a mom who unfortunately lost her battle against cancer when Ameer was only five. In everybody's mind she was literally super mom. No one could ever replace her spot cause she was just that miraculous.

Ameer's favorite color was blue. He also enjoyed rice, chicken, tacos, burritos, and nachos. His amazing nanny cooked all this food for him. She is the sweetest lady I've ever met in my entire life. He liked to eat at Buffalo Wild Wings, Tacos El Norte, and Applebee's. Ameer loves all sports, but his favorite was basketball. He played for the Recplex Thunder. Every year, he was always the MVP., he was an extraordinary shooter!

Ameer was very popular as well. He literally knew everybody at the Recplex. He even knew everybody at my school, Mahone Middle School, and of course his school, Pleasant Prairie Elementary School. He was in 5th grade there. Ameer's teacher was Mrs. Epping. He always had positive thoughts and comments about her. He was also pretty smart. His favorite subject in school was social studies, particularly geography. If you asked him anything about the U.S. he would always have the right answer! Ameer loved to watch TV on the weekends. Some of his favorite shows were Big Time Rush, Good Luck Charlie, the NBA, the NFL, My Wife and Kids, and George Lopez. He was also a huge fan of music. His all-time favorite song was “Blame It” By Jamie Foxx. But he also loved “My Hearts a Stereo”, “Say Ahh” and “Replay.” Ameer was honestly the most beloved boy I have ever met! Ameer had this effect where he changed peoples' lives, just by the slightest smile. He has blessed my whole family and me. Ameer will be missed a great deal, and I will always be his number one fan.



Ameer Durrani

A Poem By:
Manar
Mohammad

A child so innocent

Motherless but yet so mannerly

Evolving with every experience

Experiences children like him aren't accustomed to handling

Raised with the tenderness of all those around him

Dubbed as the one with the most unforgettable smile that, despite everything, remained

Unaffected by the hardships that life brought upon him

Remarkable in the game he knew best

Remembered most by those who knew the kind of person he was,

Ameer Durrani,

Naturally skilled and

Involuntarily loved, then and forever.

We will surely test you with
something of fear and hunger
and a loss of wealth and lives
and fruits, but give good tidings
to the patient, who, when
disaster strikes them say
"indeed we belong to Allah and
indeed to him we will return."
(Qur'an 2:155-156)
