

Muslim Teenagers Coping

with parents, family, life,
the universe and everything

Ruqaiyyah Waris Maqsood

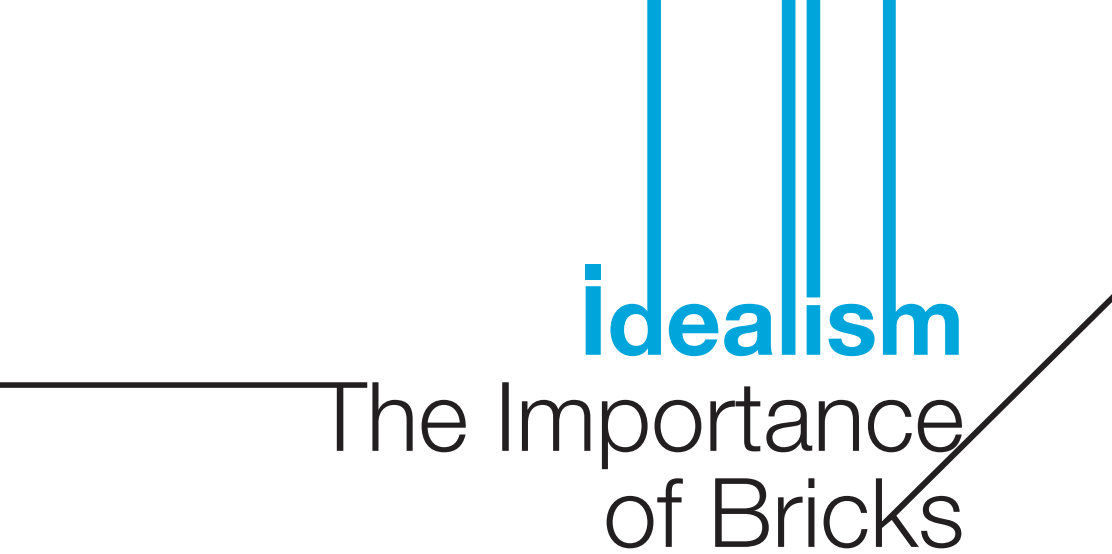
Contents

- 5** Problems, Problems
- 17** Does God Exist?
- 29** Testing, Testing
- 39** Sacrifice
- 45** Idealism
- 51** Forbidden Things
- 65** The Importance of Friends
- 77** Coping with the Family
- 93** Sex, Honour and Modesty
- 105** Half the Muslims are Women
- 117** Don't Be a Religious Snob
- 125** Be Yourself

Problems, Problems

You may not realise this, but you are one of life's most precious treasures, of extreme value, worth more than gold or silver.

What? That sounds good, since nearly everybody in the world picks on you and manages to find fault with just about everything you try to do. How come all those with super-sharp eyes, who never manage to miss the slightest little things you might do too slowly or too quickly or in too slap-dash a manner or in a bad temper, have not noticed this amazing fact of your great value?



idealism

The Importance of Bricks

All the time you are alive you are developing your own backbone. Sometimes you feel there is no point in trying because you are so small and unimportant that nothing you do will ever matter. But you realise this is quite wrong. It *does* matter. Allah doesn't care whether you are little or weak or of no importance in the world. He knows all about that. What matters to Allah is what you *do* with yourself. And if you join with others who are of like mind, by His grace you may no longer be little and weak.

“How many a little band has overcome a great band by Allah's leave. And Allah is with the steadfast.” (Surah Al-Baqara 2:249)

Remember, if you are in total darkness and you strike a match, it is only a little flame but it breaks through and sheds light. And if there are thousands of you with matches making little flames, then how great is the light.

We are like bricks for Allah – bricks, as you know, are boring little non-entities made out of mud – but a wall cannot be made without them. Even the Great Wall of China was put there brick by brick. Although we cannot realise our own importance to Allah or fully know His will for us, we are the bricks of which the Muslim community is made and every one of us has a place. Take that brick away and there is a gaping hole.

“Truly Allah loves the ones who fight in His way, arrayed in ranks, as if they were a building which is firmly and compactly cemented.” (Surah As-Saff 61:4)

If you are a Muslim you cannot just assume that other people will do everything for you. You have a duty to become a responsible adult as soon as you possibly can. It is no use waiting for someone else to take the lead and tell you what to do. If you open your eyes and take a good look at the adults around you and those responsible for governing your small area and then the larger areas – countries and nations – you realise straight away how very wrong so many things are.