



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*Gratitude being a vital element of all graft it is only sensible to begin by acknowledging those individuals who have worked determinedly to bring out a booming part of Student Forums - SF Magazine.*

*Foremost, I thank thy Lord, with His Will we've managed to toil in harmony and produce this editorial.*

*Thank you ~Alpha for being a remarkable co-editor; putting forth immense effort and working tirelessly for this fortnightly. Assuredly, without her the magazine would have been close to zilch. I would like to express my immense gratitude to Ang3l for she undertook the responsibility of providing the readers with a patent and copyright version of the periodical.*

*Special thanks goes to Ibbi, ~Mujtaba M, Romeesa-Chan, Crooked and Roxy for their humour and creativity.*

*Also, our admins Shoshou... Momy, Astarmathandphysics, Deadly\_King, who even with their busy schedule have managed to leave their imprints for SF magazine. Thanky'all.*

*Last but not the least, the writers of the magazine articles and 'Impression' are much appreciated for their contribution.*

*Amelia*

*I realise I have poor rep, mainly because I'm hard with the rules, but that's life.  
-past-papers*

# EDITOR'S NOTE

*The idea of newsletter was initiated a couple of years ago by the owner of FEP; Astarmathsandphysics. Henceforth, with the help and effort of his Administration team, the first periodical published in early 2010 was greeted by tremendous success. Time has continued to rapidly fly away and the newsletters issued every month were enriched. At present, the idea has evolved into fully-fledged magazine issues.*

*Not once did I imagine myself to be writing for an e-magazine which will, hopefully, be read by all and sundry from around the world. It seems only yesterday that I joined Student forum seeking nothing but a way out of boredom but -now, a year bygone numerous things have been altered for good. Sad goodbyes, Joyful welcoming, and new memories were added to life's pensive bowl as forum members continue the cycle of a virtual world. This Student forum provides much more then educational knowledge of high-school and college. It boosts confidence, gives us a chance to know the universe at large, to learn of the great individuals present on earth, to know about responsibilities, and life... One of our dear moderators ~Mujtaba M uses poetry to describe his stay in Student Forum.*

*A hand sneaked out from my laptop screen WHACK! \*stars start spinning\*...  
it screamed at me:*

*"Ah but what you're seeing is utterly true!  
Without SF what would you have done? It's beyond you...  
The members have held you to SF like some magical glue...  
All those past papers downloaded!  
And all those pictures uploaded!  
If only, oh if only time could be rewound..."*

*MOST IMPORTANT PREDICTION EVER: Those who study will be rewarded.  
-Chingoo*



*You would've contributed much more...  
Like you'd never done before...  
That you know deep down in your very core..."*

*Before the Mysterious Hand could call it's friend (the other hand), I swiftly  
took action:*

*"Thank you dear friends for being so helpful...  
Your involvement really made life much more joyful...  
And so I say 'Au revoir'; grateful, thankful..."*

*This winter members find many ways to display their talent and quench their thirst of learning as various new SF boards were made for the purpose of art, acting, writing and organizing events. As we continue to achieve the best, the forum was given a pleasant surprise of a new admin, ~Alpha, pride of SF admin team.*

*I would also, like to congratulate our:-*

*November Moderator of the month - Angzi*

*November Member of the month - Star:D*

*This issue of SF magazine is the last one for the year 2011. It took no less than a month for preparation partly because the admins had to scavenge for "Members' Impression". The written articles take you through various aspects of knowledge, from sports to poetry to photography. I can say the theme and layout of the magazine will leave all readers breathless.*

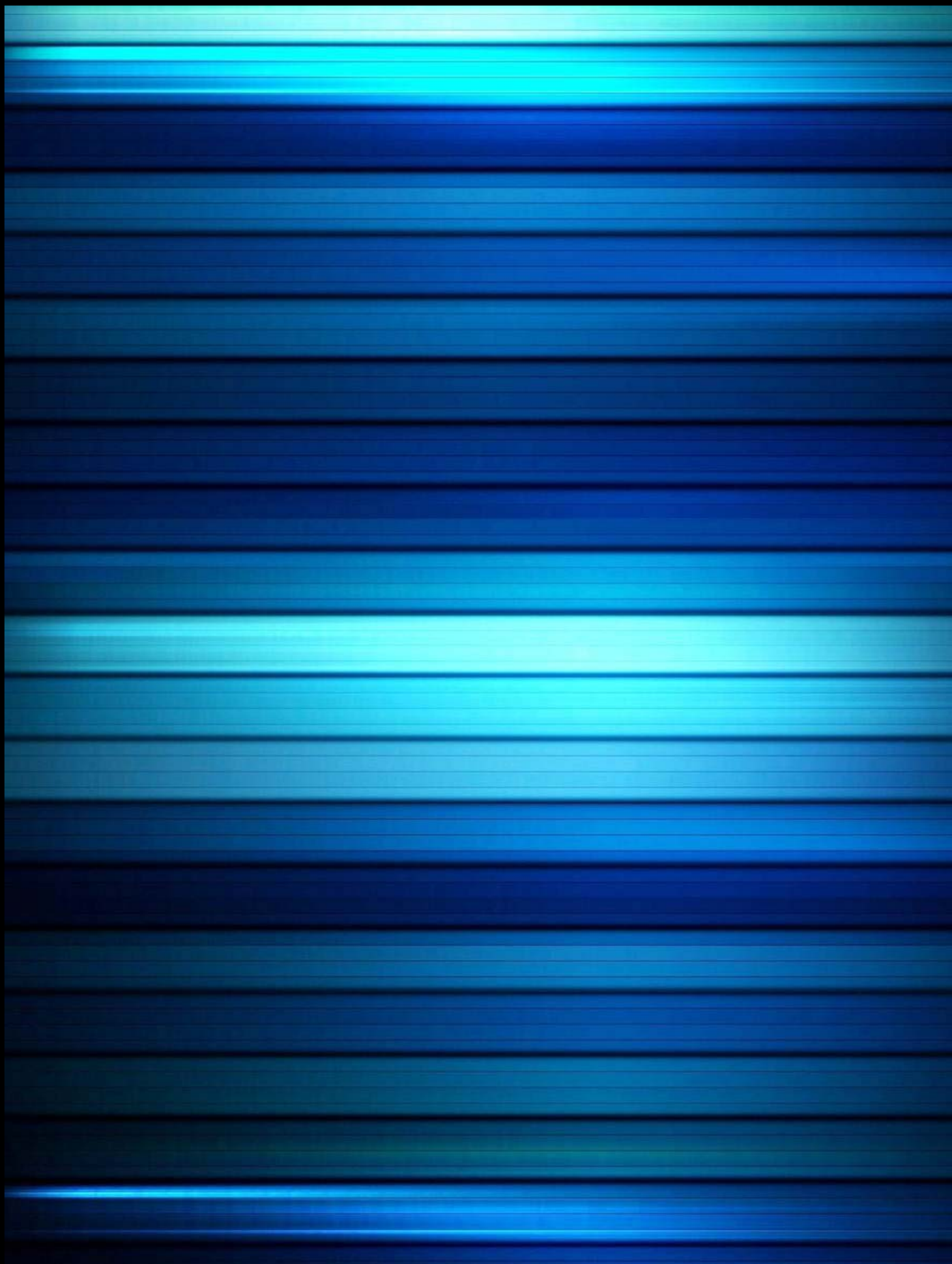
*We have done everything in our ability to make it special and memorable, for all!*

*P.S. The pictures and layout images used are not made by the editorial team. All credits go to the original owners.*

*Amelia*

*Executive Editor*

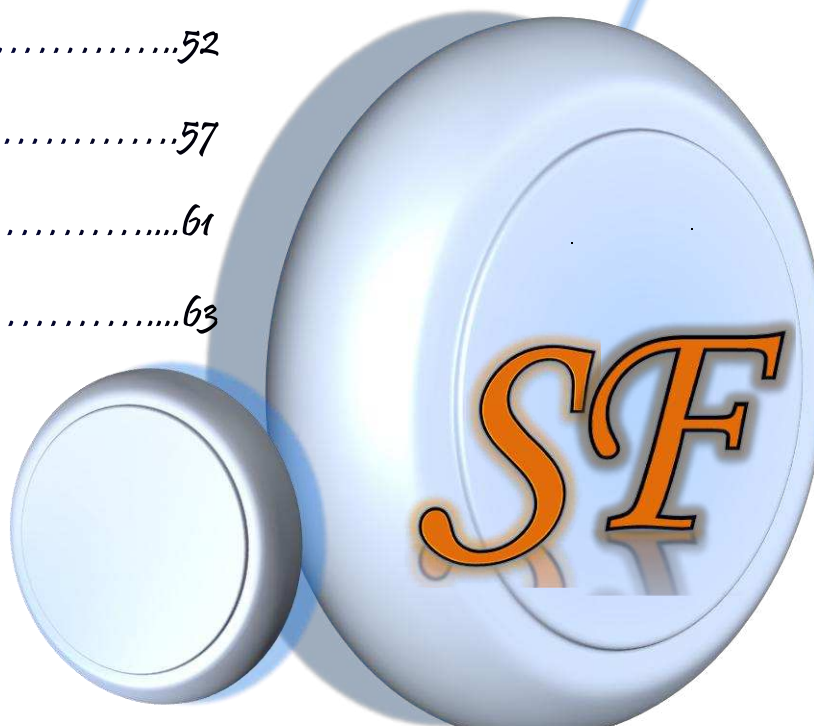
*Craziness keeps us alive.  
- Heart Hacker*





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# SCANDAL IN BRITISH EXAM

## BOARDS

The British exam boards are mired in scandal. AQA, Edexcel and WJEC have been caught in the headlights giving exam papers away to teachers in 'training days' for a £120 fee. It means effectively that many students will be disadvantaged if their teachers have not paid to go to one of these training days. This means that many state school students will get relatively worse results than private school students whose teachers attended the training day.

This may seem awful, but there is worse. The exam officer for Edexcel was recorded by a reporter:

Ms Warren, the chief examiner for Edexcel GCSE Geography, said that teachers should pick her company's exam because "you don't have to teach a lot".

Ms Warren also expressed her disbelief that the geography exam had been cleared by the official regulator.

She said: "There's so little [in the exam] we don't know how we got it through [the exam regulator]". She claimed it was "a lot smaller [than other boards] and that's why a lot of people came to us."

In the next few days, there might be many sacking. Possible the entire January exam sitting will have to be abandoned and the June exams re-written.

CIE/OCR are not recorded as being involved, but this scandal will run and run.

I LOVE IT!

*By Astarmathsandphysics*

*Procrastination; a universal malady among students, with only the rarest amongst our ranks able to resist its pull. They are typically labelled nerds...*

*- 166i*



## BPL REWIND

It had been a un-default start of the season 2011-2012 as Manchester United continued to show their good form but other top teams didn't perform up to the fans' expectations. Gerrard's injury was an early blow to Liverpool whereas Arsenal was defeated two times from their first three games, only grabbing one point out of the nine available. On the other hand Chelsea are rather looking firm at the fifth spot in the table followed by Liverpool and Arsenal with the three taking the same points from 12 games but with different goal differences. Norwich City have looked good until now. Manchester City commenced their season with a bang, achieving triumph over the newcomers Swansea City in the first game.

Meanwhile, Old Trafford witnessed two extreme-cum-awkward outcomes. Manchester United went on to win with 8 - 2 to Arsenal at the Old Trafford but in the 9th week, they startled fans by losing 1 - 6 to the Citizens, making the game-week dilapidated.

Few transfers at the start of the season and some very early blows made the start worse for Arsenal. Fabregas was finally transferred to Barcelona. They covered up very quickly in few games after being thrashed by United. Another emphatic game was when Chelsea were humbled by the Gunners in their home at the Stamford Bridge with a 5 - 3 mark. A recent defeat for Chelsea came against Liverpool, which the manager Andre Villas-Boas named a 'bad' blow.

Three sides were promoted this season - Queens Park Rangers, Swansea City and Norwich City. So far, they have shown good football and have not been in the bottom five. QPR were thwarted 6 - 0, which came at the Craven's cottage.

If it was Tottenham who were out of the UEFA Champions League 2011-2012, City qualified for the first time with the defending champions Manchester United, Chelsea and Arsenal.

While the top six battle for making a place in the next year's UEFA Champions League, on the other hand the bottom three teams - Bolton Wanderers, Blackburn Rovers and Wigan Athletic face the fear of relegation. Now with the Manchester teams looking fierce, is this season going to be a two-horse race? Will other teams recover back? Will the table face partial topsy-turvy condition or will be stable? Well, the next game-week is on head. Stay tuned!

By Arthur Bon Zavi



# WANNA BE SUCCESSFUL IN LIFE?

## 3<sup>RD</sup> KEYWORD : SINCERITY

**"Sincerity – use no hurtful deceit; think innocently and justly and if you speak, speak accordingly."**

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**

A sincere person is one who really is what he appears to be. The pleasing personality trait of sincerity means honesty and truthfulness from the heart and the complete absence of deceitfulness. Time goes by fast, and people go in and out of your life so quickly, so you should never miss the opportunity to tell these people how much they mean to you sincerely.

**Ask Billy, he'll tell you:**

*Billy Peck was a farm duck whose big dream was to become a tightrope walker. Every day he spent hours out on the rope, practicing, encouraged by his faithful friend, Artie Quack. Artie was an older duck who, when young, had practiced that very same art. Both of them were a bit flap-footed at it, but they had never let that get in the way of doing all they could to keep training and hopefully improve.*

*One day, a new ram arrived at the farm. Soon after noticing the ducks' Tightrope practice, he came over and began praising them. He said they were doing great, and he bet they could cross any precipice on that rope of theirs. This left Billy feeling highly encouraged, despite Artie commenting that he hadn't noticed any real improvement.*

*A few days later, Billy found himself with the ram, looking across a ravine. The gap was so wide that no one could jump it. You could only cross it using a tightrope. Artie tried to talk his friend out of it. He wanted him to realise that he wasn't such a great tightrope walker, and this thing with the ravine would be really dangerous. The ram disagreed, assuring them that Billy Peck was the best tightrope walker in the whole region, and that Artie Quack was just jealous of him. Both ducks got angry, and Artie refused to help with the tightrope walk.*

*On the ravine, the ram egged Billy on, to reach the other side. But as soon as he had stepped out onto the rope Billy lost his balance, and fell. Fortunately he landed on a*

*small ledge, but when he asked the ram to help him up, he discovered that he had disappeared. Billy Pecks had to spend quite some time there, and even worse, his leg was broken.*

*But if you are a hater then it would be best if you don't post in this topic. I don't take criticism well, especially where Harry Potter is concerned*

*-Amelia*



*We can express our view points the way we wish...so some ppl might not take death seriously..you cant force your views on them... death might mean alot to some person...or nothing to another..*  
*— Lana Wolf/Teju*



# HAPPINESS

I've tried here to compile five ways by which one can be happy, or at least, avoid being unhappy, from my own living experience and from what I observed and learned from others' existence.

## ❖ Concocting ideas.

Imagining things that have a possibility of happening—and not happening. Indeed, our minds are great chefs. We consciously or subconsciously pick up our characters and keep on imagining the worst possible scenarios, worrying and lamenting over those, and end up making the most futuristic films ever. Wrong, because it will make Steven Spielberg jobless. Wrong also because it creates unnecessary suspicion against the people who are closest to us. We are, in a way, doubting others of something we ourselves have decided they will do.

And if you have studied economics, you would be afraid of expectations and speculations. Economic analysis shows intricately how expectations and speculations *do* realize, by influencing human behavior, albeit subconsciously.

As an avid reader, I've encountered quite a lot of books and articles about happiness, enough to come to the conclusion that no matter what people do in life, their search for happiness is ongoing. Some find it with God, some with nature, some with other people, and quite peculiarly but not insanely, some can find it in a void.



*God has never ever deprived us of anything or any kind of help. He loves us so much and yet we do things that angers Him.*

*- Romeesa*





It's true, bad things—like good ones—do happen. But wait for things to happen in reality, *then* worry. Worrying before it is necessary will only make you worry more than is necessary. Humans would be happy if they neither borrowed sadness from the past, nor rented it from the future.

### ❖ Company.

I put it second on my list because my personal experience has taught me that company really does have a great impact on whatever we undertake in life. You will notice that with only a few people, or even with only one person, there will seem to be a natural flow in the way you interact, with whom you are wholly yourself, with whom you can get all silly and stupid without the uncomfortable feeling of hesitation that you experience with others, in whose company you find solace no matter how terrible and horrible your day has been. These kinds of relationships last long—but only if they are nurtured. We all have a busy schedule but taking out a minute fraction of your time to spend it with those you wish to—and like to—will bring out the best of your own personality. For my case, I found out that I loved spending time with people who are, by nature or habit, lone wolves, the kind not surrounded by crowds. I like knowing their company is all mine, and have reached the empirical conclusion that they are much more interesting on the inside than they actually portray to the world.

*We are humans, every one of us have a different way of thinking and guess what? It's better that way. Imagine if we ALL had the SAME way of thinking, if we all wore the same clothes, looked the same, spoke in the same way, did the same thing everyday...do you think we will be living? We will be alive but not living. Our life would be a TOTAL boredom.*

*—Shoshou... Mony*



### ❖ Blaming people.

Another fatal disease. You hate someone for acting in a way that has an adversely direct or knock-on effect on you?

Sometimes, you hate them for simply being the person that they are. Blaming people is a favourite because it is much easier than understanding them. Putting yourself in their shoes is even more difficult, practically impossible. It requires perfect knowledge of the circumstances, conditions, events and state of mind surrounding that person, something that in specified space and time would occur only

once—because even if you managed to get the circumstances, conditions and events right, adopting the state of mind of your subject is not possible since even your subject isn't fully conscious of it. Of course, I am not talking of sadistic criminals here, but of normal people we encounter in everyday life, of people who commit mistakes—knowingly or unknowingly, willingly or unwillingly—that come from being human.

### ❖ Time.

And it's biggest enemy: laziness.

Someone who is lazy does not value time. Someone who does not value time is not able to reconcile duties with leisure. Procrastination, if you have not realized it, gradually decreases self-respect. And laziness, which people equate to irresponsibility, decreases the respect others have for you. A good habit to cultivate is to first complete those tasks that are bound to you by obligation and then spend your time, still following an 'urgency protocol', with whatever you wish to.

*My 5 best things in the world:*

*1. My family 2. My friends 3. My school 4. My computer 5. Student Forums*

*thanks*

*- Q80B0Y*





Taking on resolutions is easy. Following them is difficult. Discipline and consistency are hard to maintain for many. One way to curb this is to set short-term targets instead of long-term ones, and strive to achieve those. But remember that your short-term targets should, in a broad sense, lead to your long-term goals. One advantage of this is that it helps you keep a check on time. Your aim is near, so chances you are misled are less. Compare a child who throws his ball a long way ahead his

view and tries to find it with a second child who makes small throws and advances this way. The latter is more likely to reach his destination sooner. A second advantage is that every short-term goal achieved brings along a sense of satisfaction which is essential in boosting your morale for the next trial. The child who advances with his small throws is less likely to lose sight of his ball—and his enthusiasm with it. You can increase your chances of succeeding by decreasing your chances of failure.

A disadvantage, however, of establishing short-term goals is the easiness with which you can fall prey to Zeno, an ancient Greek philosopher's, paradox. To get the picture of his paradox, imagine that you are in a room and you walk halfway between where you are now and the wall. Then you do this again, walking halfway between where you are now and the wall. And again. And again... Zeno noted that if you keep going halfway between where you are and the wall, you will never get to the wall. Half steps and half measures never achieve anything. Full commitment is needed.

Short steps are good. But they should not be half steps.

*Having always preserved yourself for only one person is such a beautiful deed that it immediately creates a pure sense of affection and love between two persons once they are united for life!*

*-Deadly\_king*





### ❖ Dealing with the odds.

Some people say happiness is like light and sadness, it's opposite—darkness. They therefore posit that sadness does not exist just like darkness is only because of the existence of light. Since darkness refers to the absence of light in specified time and space, sadness is the absence of happiness in a given situation and a given time frame. This is something I've never been able to understand.

First of all, we do not see things because there is light on them—we see things because they are visible.

Science, at the advanced stage it has reached today, has proved that no matter the amount of light shed, there are things that cannot be seen with the naked eye. Even with an ultra-sophisticated apparatus, there still remain things unknown. Thus, darkness is not the absence of light. Light should be the absence of darkness. After all, in the dark, both the visible and the invisible remain hidden. Therefore, if sadness is darkness, and happiness, light, then happiness should be the absence of sadness.

It is no pessimistic analysis—if your mind has led you to think so. We are taught as children that a man can be happy even when he has reasons to be sad, that is, the human brain can be conditioned to a state of happiness in the direst circumstances—meaning that light shed can overcome darkness. This is true, in practice and in theory. But we forget an essential element here: darkness teaches, or rather forces us to make use of our senses, other than sight. You cannot see where you are heading to in the dark, but you can feel, touch and even smell it. The dark gradually rids us of our dependence on sight, and hones other aptitudes

"uhng7fgctagnchhbggyavavsyasiabdugvxyfxyuaIhvxxygtcgsYDbV:X

Translation:

How can you expect me to speak when you've glomped me?"

-iluvme



that, most probably, would have otherwise remained paralytic—darkness teaches us to overcome itself. Therefore, sadness, by teaching us how to find solutions for problems and heals for wounds, should teach us how to overcome sadness. This is exactly what people miss! A person who is born blind and cannot gain sight has to, till as long as he lives, dwell in this darkness—but his blindness teaches him to use his other senses to live. So the true search is not for the light, it is in driving away the dark. The true lesson of life is not learning to be happy. It is learning to overcome sadness.

Forcing a smile works—sometimes miraculously. Remember, the master is you.

Learn to make your smile obey.

*It's easy enough to be pleasant,  
When life flows long like a song.  
But the man worthwhile,  
Is the one who will smile,  
When everything goes dead wrong.  
(~Ella Wheeler Wilcox)*

By ~Alpha

*Time is a good teacher - if you are sane.  
Time teaches those who are willing to accept what they are and change.  
A stubborn mule will learn nothing whatsoever from his mistakes.*

*-Ang3l*



## DO NOT KILL YOURSELF BY GRIEF

The following article have thoughts taken from Dr.Muhammad Al-Arifi's book 'Enjoy Your Life'.

I was reading a book called 'Enjoy Your Life' written by the intelligent scholar Dr.Muhammed Al-Arifi and there I learned that we, humans, shouldn't kill ourseleves with grief, for that will not lighten our troubles. How often do you see yourself complaining and others also about problems we have in our lives? Does this make us happier? Does this solve our own problems? No, it doesn't.



Read the following story, Dr.Abdullah had his eldest son went to a wedding party with the entire family in a nearby city, whilst he remained behind in Madinah due to his commitments at the University. On the way back they were involved in a terrible road accident in which they died - all ELEVEN of them!

The Doctor was a righteous man beyond fifty years of age, but nevertheless, a human being with feelings and emotions. He had a heart in his chest and two weeping eyes and of course a soul that became happy and sad.

When he heard the terrible news, he prayed over them and buried them with his own hands, all eleven of them.

*Very simple. Take a wheel, a brush and some white paint. Make a white dot with the paint in one exact place on the wheel. And as you walk, roll the wheel with you. That's happiness.*

*-Alpha*



Guests would come to his house and bring coffee along with them, as he didn't have anyone to help him prepare anything for them. What is amazing is that if you were to see the man receiving condolences, you would think that he was the one giving condolences, and that the one enduring this tragedy was someone else!

Glory is to the One who gave him patience and made him strong!

He would repeatedly say, "To Allah we belong and to Him we return. It belongs to Allah, whatever He takes or gives. Everything has an appointed time with Allah."

This is the peak of intelligence, for if he did not behave in this manner, he would have died of grief.

وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَتْهُمُ مُصِيبَةٌ قَالُوا إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ " - قال تعالى

When a misfortune confronts them, say: "Surely we belong to Allah and to Him invariably we do return." These are those upon who are blessings from their Rabb and mercy, and these are themselves the guided.

Surah Al baqra verse 156-157



© Penny Parker

Don't complain, don't be depressed, learn to live your life with what you have available because with gratitude you'd earn satisfaction and always be happy.

*Once we come to know the source of and the means to achieve happiness we can understand that our focus must be within ourselves, for happiness is an intrinsic quality of our true self.*

*-Nid*



To all my beloved sisters and brothers, to all the depressed people who got their lives full of problems and sadness, say this dua because it acts like magic:

It was reported from ‘Abd-Allaah ibn Mas’ood that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: “No person suffers any anxiety or grief, and says:

‘Allaahumma innee ‘abduka wa ibn ‘abdika wa ibn amatika, naasiyati bi yadika, maadin fiyya hukmuka, ‘adlun fiyya qadaa’uka, as’aluka bi kulli ismin huwa laka sammayta bihi nafsaka aw anzaltahu fi kitaabika aw ‘allamtahu ahadan min khalqika aw ista’tarta bihi fi ‘ilm il-ghaybi ‘andak an taj’ala al-Qur’aana rabee’ qalbi wa noor sadri wa jalaa’a huzni wa dhahaaba hammi’.

[http://www.makedua.com/display\\_dua.php?sectionid=34](http://www.makedua.com/display_dua.php?sectionid=34)



Let's start being happy from now! =]

**By Shoshou..Mony**

*I'm Crooked and I'm AWESOME. I don't really have a bad side. I try so hard to become a villain and I fail.*

*- Crooked*



## WHY DO PEOPLE...?

A short, but meaningful, story I would like to share:

*Once a man was outside his house on all fours looking for something. He looked high and low, far and wide, but did not find the thing he was looking for. A friend happened to pass by. Puzzled by the man's behavior, he enquired: "What are you searching for?"*

*"My keys," the man answered.*

*The friend then asked him where the last place he put the key was.*

*"In the house," he replied.*

*"Then why are you looking for it outside?" the friend asked again.*

*"Because there is more light here."*

This story may seem silly at first. Take your time, think about it well.

People are sometimes silly... But if we blame them because of silliness, then we're worse, we're bitter.

By ~Alpha

DO NOT FORGET ME OR I WILL COME BACK WITH A  
KNIFE. Ok joke, I'm not a killer. Just a murderer.

— Raxy



## Are Psychopathic Serial Killers Evil?

### Are they Blameworthy for

### What They Do?

Our modern culture lacks an adequate framework to understand the roots and causes of what we commonly refer to as evil. The Third Reich, the Bolshevik Revolution, Stalinism ... Our body of literature, social sciences, and our common sense of morality only scratch the surface of a true comprehension of the nature of evil that we comprehend. Thus, the very people who are, in fact, the initiators of the greatest Ponerogenic process or also known as Genesis of Evil, pass undetected. Our lack of understanding will inevitably lead to the very problems that the majority of humanity prevents to acknowledge.

It is a matter of both nurture and ones built in character. Do hardened criminals not have the ability to empathize with the victims, or to understand that what they are doing is wrong? In most cases these criminals feel justified in committing their crime, and often feel that their victim deserved it.

We rarely hold responsible the individual who influences another to commit evil instead we focus solely at the agent of the crime act. The true cause of 'evil' actions goes unpunished and undetected.

- Studies show that 60% of psychopathic individuals had *lost a parent*;
- Child is *deprived of love or nurturing*; parents are detached or absent;
- Inconsistent discipline*: if father is stern and mother is soft, child learns to hate authority and manipulate mother;
- Hypocritical parents who *privately belittle the child* while publicly presenting the image of a "happy family".

Disease Name: 'The MAD GUY disease'.  
I had a distant family relative infected with the 'MAD GIRL disease'  
Both are a variant of the 'Mad Cow disease'  
-Stylish Executive



Inherited and acquired psychological disorders and ignorance of their existence and nature are the primal causes of evil. The magic number of 6% seems to represent the number of humans who either carry the genes responsible for biological evil or who acquire such disorders in the course of their lifetime mainly during their childhood years. This small percentage is responsible for the vast majority of human misery and crime, and for infecting others with their flawed view of the world which has developed slowly during the time of their childhood sufferings.

Now, the question lies ahead of us ... who is to be blamed: *the killing agent or the society that may have led to construction of that monster?*



**"The practical value of our natural world view generally ends where psychopathology begins." (Lobaczewski, 145)**

**A thought:**

**~ A child is like soft clay that we shape according to our treatment of it. ~**

**By Romeesa**

*I'm special -My cat thinks so anyway. I also created fep and now I want to put maths and physics notes on [astarmathsandphysics.com](http://astarmathsandphysics.com) for every 14-18 syllabus in the world. I aim to be putting up 10 pages a day, 4000 pages a year. In a year I think I will be the number 1 maths tutor, flying all over the world at 24 hours notice.*

***-Astarmathsandphysics***



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**“Think not of those who are slain in  
God’s way as dead. Nay, they live,  
finding their sustenance in the  
presence of their Lord.” [3: 169]**



**One may ask as to what is  
"Ashura"?**

**The answer is simple, it is the historical day  
when the event of battle of Karbala took  
place reflecting the collision of the good  
versus the evil, the virtuous versus the wicked  
and the battle of Imam Hussain [AS] (the  
head of virtue) versus Yazid (the head of  
impiety).**

*You will always have your good old memories with you. Until encountered  
by cerebral infarction, memory loss or some other instances which may  
shock you prefrontal cortex.*

*- Master\_Key*



## ~ What is Ashura ?

Ashura or the 'Day of Ashura' is the 10th day of the first month of the Islamic calendar Muharram. The word Ashura means simply tenth in the Arabic language. This day marks the remembrance of the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (AS), the grandson of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), at the Battle of Karbala in Iraq on the 10th of Muharram in the year 61 AH (October 10, 680 AD).

The battle of Karbala took place 1400 years ago when an exceptional man was denied his basic rights of freedom, justice and equality. At a time when power had been usurped away from its rightful leaders and the faith was under great threat of derailment by the actions of a tyrannical regime adamant to spread corruption in society, one man rose up against the oppression and injustice. On the night preceding the great sacrifice, Hussain (AS) urged his companions to part his company as he knew what was lying ahead of him but they had showed their true loyalty and obedience not only to Imam Hussain (AS) but to their faith and belief in Islam by choosing to remain alongside the great leader. On the plains of Karbala, a desert landscape about 100 kilometers south of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, Hussain (AS), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), stood bravely with seventy-two men confronted by an army of thirty thousand, all armed from head to toe . And in those early hours of the afternoon, it took the massive military force little under four hours to completely and utterly massacre and mutilate the small group of men who opposed to obey their unjust ruling.

Hussain (AS) and all his supporters were killed, including Hussain's six months old infant son. Hazrat Abbas (AS), sacrificed his life trying to get water for the children of Imam Hussain, who were dying of thirst. The story of the sacrifice of his life in trying to procure water for Imam Hussain's children on the battlefield is the most touching and significant in the history of Islam. The daughters of Mohammad's family were expelled from the tents,

*"Guys feel free to say what you want cuz in the next donno century your grandchildren will see this"*

*-Golden Girl*



unveiled and barefooted, while weeping and crying for their slain relatives. The army set all the tents on fire. Women and children were taken as prisoners and treated as slaves by Yazid's army. The martyrs and the battle has a central place in Islamic history and tradition with particular emphasis in the steadfastness of faith.

One may ask as to why did Imam Hussain (AS) enter a small and bloody battle; a battle which he knew would result in a most devastating and brutal end ?

His sole objective was to strive to restore freedom, peace, and equality in the name of the religion of peace.

Karbala is the cruelest tragedy humanity has ever seen. Yet, the startling (though appalling) events in Karbala proved like a powerful tornado that shook the very foundation of Muslims, it stirred their consciousness, ignorant or learned alike. For sincere Muslims, Karbala turned into a triumph. The tragic event became the very beacon of light to always remind Muslims to practice Islam honestly and sincerely, to do what is right irrespective of consequences, and fear no one except Allah (SWT) because He alone can judge us.

Under the guidance of Imam Zainul Abideen and the leadership of Lady Zainab (peace be upon them), the women were to spread the message of Imam Hussain's sacrifice even while they went through huge ordeals and sorrows. Their grief at the murder of the Imam was a vehicle of change, source of the truth and cannot be separated from their accomplishment of the mission making sure that Imam Hussain (AS)'s message is kept alive till the present day.

We today are responsible for a great trust - Hussain's Legacy. A treasure which provides for every seeker wisdom and resolute strength into their faith to practice into their everyday life.

*Girls understand humans (both guys and girls) much better than guys  
but guys do a much better job keeping secrets than girls  
-O.T.13*



## ~ Quotes:

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, as related on the authority of Salman the Persian:

'Whoever loves Hassan and Hussain, I love him, and whomsoever I love, God also loves, and whomsoever God loves, He shall cause him to enter into the gardens of bliss.' Likewise he who hates Hassan and Hussain shall be consigned to the Fire, because both God and his Messenger will hate him, 'and a terrible punishment awaits him'. (*Al-Muttaqi al-Hindi, p. 221*)

"I wanted to know the best of the life of one who holds today an undisputed sway over the hearts of millions of mankind.... I became more than ever convinced that it was not the sword that won a place for Islam in those days in the scheme of life. It was the rigid simplicity, the utter self-effacement of Hussain the scrupulous regard for pledges, his intense devotion to his friends and followers, his intrepidity, his fearlessness, his absolute trust in God and in his own mission to save Islam. These and not the sword carried everything before them and surmounted every obstacle."  
-Mahatma Gandhi

"The best lesson which we get from the tragedy of Karbala is that Hussain and his companions were rigid believers in God. They illustrated that the numerical superiority does not count when it comes to the truth and the falsehood. The victory of Husayn, despite his minority, marvels me!"  
- Thomas Carlyle (1795 – 1881) – Famous British historian

"In a distant age and climate, the tragic scene of the death of Hussain, will awaken the sympathy of the coldest reader. Without his martyrdom, Islam would have extinguished long ago. He was the saviour of Islam and it was due to his martyrdom that Islam took such a deep root, which it is neither possible nor even imaginable to destroy now."  
- Edward Gibbon (1737 – 1794) – Considered the greatest British historian of his time.

By Romeesa



# POETRY BY MEMBERS

## PATH OF STRUGGLE

*Some people struggle to survive,  
Others prefer to die,  
I chose to be on either sides,  
Not dead but considered alive,  
Making decisions were always hard,  
Society supported no one's part,  
Luck stood against me, never showed it's card  
This came from a deep feeling found inside my heart,  
My poems retell my reality and this is my art,  
Group of well organized phrases and words,  
sentences build up my entire world  
So how effective words can be???*  
*I can describe it as honey being reached by a bee,  
Or a bird flying over an unreachable sea,  
Or a humanbeing eating from an irresistable tree  
So why can't people see what i see??*

**BY AS GIRL**

*I just gave birth to a goat!*

*-Nikita Eshrat*



# TOMORROW

*Tomorrow  
What will it be?  
How quickly shall  
The hours pass  
The minutes  
The seconds,  
How bright shall  
the Sun beam  
If at all,  
In the cloudless heavens,  
I want today  
To ebb away  
And bring new vigor  
With a brand new day,  
Come quickly  
Come quickly  
So that I can say,  
Good Morrow!*

**BY DAGREENGLANT**



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*"Past is history, future is mystery.  
Thank you all for cooperating with me."  
-Arthur Bon Zavi*



A TRY  
W L B A

*When all around that one piece of strength  
Is nearly giving in and dying away  
A call arises from the core; it may not cover an inch  
of a length,  
But it will remain etched, to maintain its stay..*

*The tone will change, the pitch might fall,  
The power might lessen, but never too small  
To let go of its own right- to be alive  
Never-- will it stop to thrive  
Never will it lose hope to survive...*

*The world could seem like its coming to an end  
Life might seem lost, without another way or  
another bend  
But this one ray will keep rising like a phoenix  
Bringing me to believe that—  
Nothing, after all, is too screwed to be fixed!*

*Uncertainties could block the mind like smoke  
Fear could grapple the heart all around  
But fighting against all odds, the first step would be  
a master-stroke  
Helping the spark to spread all over, to move, to  
surround..*

*As I walk on this battlefield, I wonder if I have  
chosen what's right  
So much is the crowd that my goal seems out of  
sight...*

*Yeah, and we'd be  
dead with hatred as  
well  
— Hushi*



*But as this call revives itself, on its own  
I am sure I'll hear it in a better tone,  
If not this second, this minute and not today,  
Then I am hoping I will— some day.*

*Those I love- I ask you to trust me,  
Don't leave me behind, pray I get where I want to  
be,  
But even if destiny is hard and I am left stranded  
"TRY" is the word which, on my heart, will remain  
branded.*

*Hope and happiness are indispensable to each other  
And it is because of that, that a smile bothers to  
cover*

*All the dust, all the pain  
Healing and relieving, ever so brilliantly,  
all the stress, all the strain.*

*There arises a blow  
With the smile that brings a glow  
That pushes the soul inside of me  
With an amplifying message- you gotta be who you  
want to be*

*Till the last breath of life that would take its toll  
I am going to try to fulfill my role  
Which aint that of a shining star  
Its of a warrier- fighting for the truth, when all'd  
have left,  
who is going to try, and try  
Till all is over  
till the end of the war.*

*So, I'll get my wings again,  
throw them wide into the shining sky,  
Paint those dreams again, forget the past,  
I will burn the candle of hope again,  
cos no matter, I WILL TRY!*

**BY MH**

*Blind people usually  
see what we don't see  
-Dasitli*



*Eid ka chaand saal mein sirf  
eik baar aata hain,  
Par tum meri du'aaon mein  
baar baar aaogi  
Khushi pheilake chaand  
chala bhi jata hain,  
Par jo tum dil mein utar  
aayiho, ab ja nahin paaogi*

BY ALPHA (TO AMELIA)

*Luck, hardwork, mix 'em together,  
make a soupy broth!  
Then add a pinch of prayers, stir  
until they froth!  
Pour in some concrete syllabus,  
study-the-right-material;  
Mix and mix until it does-not-look-  
like-cereal!  
Now drop in some grey gloopy cells,  
Be careful that you stay-afar;  
Watch it burst and bubble and boil,  
And there's your recipe for an astar!!*

BY IBBI

*I got dreams when I watched  
Hide & Seek, as a kid.  
— Star*



## MEMBERS' IMPRESSION

*What did you learn in the student forums, apart from the daily lessons life teaches us?*

*How important it is on the internet for replies to be asap. How important it is for everything to work properly. I learnt to write in latex—the mathematical code the forum uses to post mathematical symbols. That it is good to cede authority to people who know better than you. How to be impartial when everyone is insisting they are right and everyone else is the devil's disciple. I learnt to delegate. I have knowledge and staying power, others have passion and time.*

*If you had to exchange place with an SF member (other than yourself) for a day, who would it be and why?*

*I always wondered what it would be like to be a girl in charge. This is the way the world is going. In England now girls are getting better qualifications than boys at every stage, so one day all the women will be in charge of everything and men will be kept around to make tea.*

*I would like to exchange with a son or daughter of a king or queen. Are there any such here?*

*-Astarmathsandphysics*

*It is experience, another form of time that allows us to make better decisions and thus is a teacher.*

*-Saladin/Engraved*



*SF was launched in the middle of the night, I remember the night as being a great one, cause that's the first time I actually did a full blown project from the ground (referring to SF). What I remember the most is that I didn't sleep that night, nor the next. I checked the forum every hour or so to see the growth. I remember that by the time I slept there were 40 users, and it was pretty awesome, and seeing a site grow is a great motivation to work further. Anyways, now it's a pretty great community, sadly I am too busy to come very often to check on the site, other then if Astar starts calling me in the middle of the night to complain about why he can't destroy the entire database for fun. Anyways, I am busy and don't come often these days, but if you guys ever need me, the admins know my email, so you know how to reach me.*

*-ExamPapersGeek*

*What I've learnt is about me and my personality. When I first came here, I was all about 'being cool' - cool words, cool name, cool this and cool that. I've learnt that people don't actually care as long as you're yourself, they usually accept you the way you are. And honestly, after 2 years, I think I've found myself.*

*-Roxy*

*It's easy to destroy a friendship but difficult to build one, it's easy to hate but difficult to appreciate, it's easy to be single but difficult to love, it's easy to be stupid but difficult to be wise... if you don't believe me just study your life by yourself.*

*- Mani\_DaDude*



*There isn't just one thing I'll always remember about SF. SF has given me some really honest, sweet and adorable real life friends. I came here just as a newbie trying to help people studying the same subjects as I was but then I found some real sweet people who helped me gain my confidence in real and cheered me up whenever I was sad. I'll always remember all the PM convos. SF is one reason why my life is so much more beautiful now. Thank you for all those who were and are playing a splendid role in my life.*

*-Crooked*

*I would remember the civic feeling it gave to each of its members and how gentle old members were to the new members. When I first signed up, all the prodigies of the forum helped me in mathematics and saved me from a certain failure and it taught me that nothing is more pleasurable than helping others in academics.*

*-Requiem/ Arsenal*

*At first, SF was a place I could go to when I was pretending to study—there were people to talk to, and fun forum games to play, but it wasn't long before the time I spent on the forum exceeded the time I spent off of it (arrgh short attention span woes). And though I don't log in as much as I should any more (I am quite ashamed of my behaviour), it and the people I made friends with there will always hold a special place in my heart.*

*SF FAMILY FTW!!!!*

*Don't think you've gotten rid of me yet!!! I'LL BE BAHCK,*

*-Maybeitwastheneighbours*



*I've come across many staff members since I joined SF. We disagreed, we fought, we laughed, we worked together as one team and together we made SF exist. Many left, but for some reason, this newly created team... is the BEST team I've ever come to work with.*

*2011 STAFF got unique members with good leading skills and I can see the ability of most of us leading in this world inshAllah.*

*I would like to take this chance to thank you all for being my family, my friends and my co-workers.*

*Thank you....*

*The words came out of my heart and I'm not complimenting anyone for the sake of being nice, but I'm truly telling the truth. With millions of words being available, still, it's not enough to describe each and every one of you fully because simply... words are not enough.*

*"May God keep his light upon your way..."*

*In happiness, joy, work and play.*

*Each and everyday.*

*Do not go astray.*

*May Allah bless you all. =]*

*With love,*

*-Shoshou..Mony*



*What did you learn in the student forums, apart from the daily lessons life teaches us?*

*The first thing which I learned from Student Forums is the importance of prioritizing in my life. At first, I was kind of addicted to the forum. But gradually I learned that this is not healthy for me and I must learn to prioritize. It was difficult, but I did manage to strike a healthy balance between my studies and spending time online/SF.*

*I learned the fallacy of stereotypes. Throughout my life, in the environment I grew up in, of which I was exposed quite a lot. Then I learnt that every people are individuals and unique in their own way no matter the religion/culture they come from.*

*If you had to exchange place with an SF member (other than yourself) for a day, who would it be and why?*

*I would like to exchange my place with ~Alpha.... I really like her writing style and if I do ever change place with her, I'd try to imitate and learn that kind of... style. I've tried but wasn't quite successful.. but I think being in her place and handling her posts and PMs might make it more interesting/stimulating and might enable me to learn better.*

*Share with us something that you will always remember about SF.*

*I will always remember the fallacy of useless arguments/fights. It never adds up to anything meaningful. Its better if we tolerate the other person for what they are rather than what we want them to be.*

*-Styli\$ Executive*

*Alhamdulillah I have confidence with me and I am going to follow with what I have decided to do and I am going to work hard, hard and harder.*

*- SZM*



*What did you learn in the student forums, apart from the daily lessons life teaches us?*

*Friends are best at a distance and within a veil of polite nothings. That way, no one ever fights and no one ever gets the least bit offended. At least, they don't show it... You can carry your friends everywhere with you to the furthest reaches of internet availability. Unless SF feels too tired to bear the burden of more members... Laughing isn't as fun alone as it is with live people to infect you with their laughter...*

*Share with us something that you will always remember about SF.*

*The most potent thing I learned here is the power of nostalgia. I missed the friends made and lost here more than the real-life ones (probably because I haven't stayed in one place long enough to cement any kind of friendship) I see myself opening the pages of these forums again and again, ad infinitum, until I grow old and hearken back to a golden age, or the Forums have to close due to the unforeseen games of fate. I may peruse the correspondences of years past, with a nostalgic smile for the experiences loved and lost. I see too new friendships and new friends, new experiences to add to a journal of memories, enough to see me to an age ripe for plucking off the tree of life into the Hereafter..."*

*-Ibbi*

*SF has always been a place where every single person helped me and made me understand especially Chem. I had made many many friends who thankfully I still am in touch with.. Two years of my life on that forum was an amazing experience and helped me moving ahead in life.. This place and the people will always be missed by me... I wish everyone the best and hope the forum is just the way I remember it was...*

*-Zainy*

*Me wanna have hmmm ..... may be lizard soup and human skull with brains for main course!*

*Hope you don't mind*

*- \*\*\*exam\*\*\**



*What did you learn in the student forums, apart from the daily lessons life teaches us?*

*Being a student and at the same time being able to share views, ideas and experience with members here is very enriching. It has helped me to know life from a different angle which is certainly beneficial for my future. I've also learnt how to deal with different situations in life accordingly and learning the cultures from various countries across the globe.*

*If you had to exchange place with an SF member (other than yourself) for a day, who would it be and why?*

*Shoshou..Mony*

*She's had the chance to work with children! I just love being with kids Furthermore experiencing the life of a Saudi for a Muslim is a tremendous wish.*

*Share with us something that you will always remember about SF.*

*The ability to lead a group?*

*It's my first ever experience to be administrator and it came out just unexpectedly. It has helped me to mature faster and take final decisions after hearing other's views. I just hope that I met the expectations that my predecessors laid on me and that I have the capacity to lead my successors on the right track.*

*-Deadly\_king*

*SF is a great place with many good members. Members and staff are always helpful and friendly. One thing I will never forget is my first conversation, which was with Saud, via private messages. Asked him about English oral exam, but he knew nothing about it. And not to forget my first post which was an IGCSE physics question. GG tried to help, but Saud gave the answer before her. Silly Me!*

*-Abod*



*Sometimes in life you start something (or join something) while being scared of the outcomes but all that I have experienced on SF so far was the least that I expected and all I can say is it was worth the try and it's actually a blessing from Allah that I met these people because I just came in for clearing my doubts but I ended up with much more just like my friend Dibbs once said.*

*Since February 2010 i.e. the day I joined Studentforums.biz till this very moment I have had the best memories that one would ever wish for. The memories I had are so many that I'm out of count but I'll be mentioning the ones that have made the biggest impact on me. I remember back when I was an IGCSE student I got very tensed by the time my IGCSE exams started so I needed something that would take my mind off my studies so that I'll get refreshed and be able to get back to revising. Miraculously, that was when I met my 'chat room friends' who were the most fun and funny people that I ever came across in any chat room on the web. Every day I'll come back from my exams and chat with them twice a day once in the morning and at night. We did that every single day till my last exam. Other memories include memories of "Summer 2010" and "Summer 2011" and the times when I first met my friends who until this day still have their place in my heart whether they're still in Studentforums.biz or have left a long time ago. These memories are still there in my head as if they just happened yesterday; however, they're not the only ones that I cherish.*

*I will remember this site for it's wonderful facts, the fact that you feel like you are a part of a real family, people who care for you, wish you the best, try to be there for you when they're needed, help out whenever they can, do all that they can do to help each other and those who no matter what happens will never forget to mention you in their prayers and the list goes on. At first you might think "this has got to be fake" but I swear to god you will only get to believe this if you get to experience these feelings on your own so you better join as soon as possible so that you don't miss the chance of experiencing such an unforgettable once in a life time feeling that you'll definitely regret not having experienced.*

*(continued...)*



*At a time in my life I felt that this world is filled with nasty people and all that negative thinking but what many people don't know is that I regained my faith in friendship and the only reason behind it is that I became friends with SF's members who have done so much for me that I can't possibly call what I have with them friendship, the right word would be kinship that is Family Spirit. In addition, being a Moderator for about 6 Months was a Huge honor, I will never forget the team spirit that SF's staff has for I have never seen anything similar. Being a moderator I got to learn so much more about my friends and that's when I got to know almost everyone's "True self" and I will never stop feeling thankful to DrEvil to have made me a Moderator as well as the member of year 2010 for I have never imagined myself being in such positions. Also I have so many memorable moments being a part of SF's Awesome team (MashAllah), they truly are people that I loved working with and I know undoubtedly that such people are very rare in this world, which reminds me of the Quote {True friends are hard to find, harder to leave, and IMPOSSIBLE to forget}*

*How can I forget mentioning the people who were my source of inspiration? I have admired some of my friends and have been impressed by many others as well. I won't forget Engraved (Saladin) who made me believe that reaching your goal isn't impossible, all you need to do is take the first step and put your faith in god. He taught me a lot of other things that a 'Thank you' would never be enough in expressing my appreciation for what he has done for me and others. Deadly\_king, Alpha and Shousho\_Mony, Amelia, Romeesa, Mujtaba, Hush1994, and all the people I came across have taught me something new about life and this world. They are very ambitious and they sure do have big dreams that I wish would come true one day. These people have helped me and inspired me in so many ways, I never thought the 'virtual world' could ever have a serious impact on me but Studentforums.biz has affected my studies in many ways, it has changed the way I approach things in my life and it sure did change my attitude towards a lot of many things.*

*I would like to end this by thanking Allah firstly for making me click on the 'Register' button for I would have never been exposed to 1/3 of what I experienced in this fantastic site. Secondly I'd thank all my friends especially the Moderators and the Administrators for all that they have done for me and for believing in me through thick and thin.*

*(continued...)*

*I'm not trying to offend you, but you seem to be swinging me in a circle.*

*-Chingoo*



*And last but not least I'd like to thank Mr.astarmathsandphysics for making this website since it has countless things to offer for everyone who joins it, May god bless you ,Sir.*

*Beace xD*

*-The Golden Girl*

*What did you learn in the student forums, apart from the daily lessons life teaches us?*

*Being a part of SF over a period only 5 months has blessed me with the privilege of meeting one of the most passionate, determined and kind hearted people and through them I have learnt a lot of valuable lessons that has built up my both my interpersonal skills and self-development in various ways evolving me into a better person.*

*If you had to exchange place with an SF member (other than yourself) for a day, who would it be and why?*

*I'd like to be in astarmathsandphysics's place for a day.*

*Apart from my tiny curiosity over how the Admin's lounge looks like, I'm more curious as to how he manages to tutor students in his real life while at the same time he solves his 'virtual' student's doubts and problems from all around the globe.*

*I believe that through that one day experience, I'll learn the real importance of education.*

*-Romeesa*

*Time is a cruel mistress who plagues us with our mistakes. By the time we realise how to prevent those mistakes we realise time has taken one other crucial thing from us.*

*Our youth.*

*---End of Rant---*

*-Ari*



*What did you learn in the student forums, apart from the daily lessons life teaches us?*

*Ever since I joined SF, I've learnt that being patient is a really important thing. I have seen moderators having their patience stretched to the limit by certain members who demand for help, but then neglect to express their gratitude after help has been given to them. However, the moderators have always succeeded in resolving the matter amicably.*

*If you had to exchange place with an SF member (other than yourself) for a day, who would it be and why?*

*I would definitely want to swap places with Astarmathsandphysics, as I have noticed that he is very committed to his work as a teacher as well as an administrator of FreeExamPapers. I really admire him, and I hope to one day be half as good as him in Maths and Physics – both of which I love most dearly!*

*Share with us something that you will always remember about SF.*

*I will always remember how warmly I was welcomed into the forum when I first joined a few months ago. Abod had invited me to introduce myself, and I was – and still am – touched by the warm reception I got from moderators and members alike. I've always been a bit of an introvert and tend to shy away from striking up conversations with people I don't know, and I really cannot thank them enough...*

*-Becca*

*SF always served me with all of the needed educational tools. Like we have a thread "SF Family"—it's truly meant to be a family. People from all ethnic groups coherently interact with one another, solve their difficulties, give valuable suggestions and motivate to break all barriers to success—just some of the many qualities that SF possesses.*

*-Master Key*

*"Sf is like a teacher, friend, family and much more to me.... "*

*-Saud*



*What did you learn in the student forums, apart from the daily lessons life teaches us?*

*SF has shown me the value of teamwork and friendship, and that they go hand in hand. Every time I log in, I see how much the moderators & administrators put into this forum; highlighting the fact that it wouldn't be such a success if it weren't for their teamwork and strong bonds of friendship, which helps them a lot in becoming a better team.*

*If you had to exchange place with an SF member (other than yourself) for a day, who would it be and why?*

*I would like to exchange places with Astarmathsandphysics for a day, 'cause I'd like to know how it is managing so many helpful sites for us students; how it's like to shoulder so many responsibilities at once...he's also the administrator of the forum so I'd get to partake in the working of the forum too which would altogether be a surreal experience.*

*-Star*

*I was asked to write something that I will never forget about SF. There are so many things about SF that I won't ever forget like all that I have learnt related to studies as a student but more than that what I will never forget is how to maintain relations with people whom we have never met or live so far apart from and not even know well. I have so many friends on SF whom I have never met but am so attached to that I share everything with them. SF has taught me something I could have never learned if I had never been a member of it. Today I am proud to say that I have an e-family where there surely are no hackers or frauds just people with pure soul gathered to make each other's life easy. I hate myself for not able to interact with anyone like before but I surely plan to return once I get time I still visit as a guest sometimes to see if my family is okay. If something happens to one of the members I feel bad and think about it for the whole day even ignore my school friends for them, that is the relation and these are the people I will never forget about and of SF.*

*-AOL*

*This year I hardly spent any time on SF otherwise I would have scored a century by now...*

*-DrEvil*



*I joined SF for the sake of "studying" for IGs (but actually it was more like wasting time with fellow bums who, just like me, are looking for excuses not to study). I made a lot of friends, Rooks, Zainy, Monnie, Borakk, Alpha (the last two we engaged in numerous debates I remember). Anyways, time passed on and eventually I became a moderator but unfortunately when I started college I couldn't get enough grip to chit chat for too long and that also carried on through uni. Anyways, I'm in holidays now and, encouraged by Alpha, I decided to drop bye and see how the forum has been since I left, I see a lot of new faces, hopefully I'll get to know most during these holidays.*

*Something I'll always remember, the friends I made there. Although I unfortunately lost touch with a few here and there I still keep in occasional contact, mainly the ones I mentioned in the previous paragraph.*

**-O.T.13**

*This place is meaningful to me, because it is part of the country I love, I learned from and is part of my childhood. I am always exploring with my eyes, watching a lot of posts being sent by different members. I think that, these kinds of places are naturally welcoming where different people can mingle, away from their everyday lives. I dream with my eyes open admiring new requests from members coming from places I never travelled, I dream over this splendor. I go there with a reason and sometimes I find that I don't actually need one. I stay there to forget who I am, to breathe and re-feed myself with hope. This is the only place I can go to and tell my problems, my difficulties and my sorrows. This place is part of me. The staffs are part of my purity and the members are part of my friends' circle that I need to hug every time I am there. This is part of my studyroom, where I go to read and work in tranquility. It means a lot to me because it is useful and attractive; it is a clean and quiet place in a world full of noise and dirtiness. In this place I can find eternal happiness.*

*I love Studentforums very much.*

**-SZM**



*SF has been the most amazing discovery of my life, yes I ran into it accidentally, but this accident was like none other, it was an incredible collusion where I met the most amazing people of my life, I found new sisters, awesome brothers, a 'fat eggplant' who wanted to adopt me (inside joke) and the most beautiful woman in the world as my mother.. I couldn't want more, I didn't have to... It was enough!*

*They say: "friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art... It has no survival value; rather is one of those things that give value to survival"—couldn't be more true!*

*SF means to me, what Hogwarts mean to Harry... (sorry, can't help being melodramatic, I for one, happen to be an Asian)... Well, well kids, to sum it up.. waitoooo.. I can't sum it up... my journey here just started, I have a long way to go before I reach the stage of "summing it up", maybe say in 2060 or 2080, may be then I will give you my glorious description of SF and if you wanna be part of this 'adventure', then I guess you'll have to travel with me too and for that, stay tuned to SF! (Oh by the way, I do get banned every ONCE in a while, don't worry it's all very normal!)*

*And now to the answer of the question asked, all my moments in SF are memorable, to every tiny little detail and all of them are permanently saved in my very very personal hard disk and I'm afraid no 'killer-virus' would be ever able to erase it, love you Alpha... I mean SF!*

*-Nikita Eshrat*

*Well I don't know which of the questions does my writing reply to... but blah ... I will go on anyway. Studentforums was a totally new and amazing experience. Been following it from past three years and I have seen people come in, grow, mature and then leave. SF showed me a whole new world of a place where people helped each other out without expecting anything in return, stood by each other and became part of each other's life without knowing each other personally. SF became my second home especially during my IGCSE and AS level.*

*Although now I rarely log into SF I will forever remember the memorable moments I have spent with the amazing SF-ians. Love you all.*

*-\*\*\*exam\*\*\**

*I think you should just love one person in life.. Yourself. The definition of love is totally forgotten, will somebody remind me?*

*-Vin*



*If you had to exchange place with an SF member (other than yourself) for a day, who would it be and why?*

Tough question! I guess, I will choose to exchange place with Crooky. Why...? First of all, because then "imma ban yuh all \*Crooky's evil laugh\*."

Secondly, because he is the one I know the most here. And lastly, because I can get that ullu, I mean Crooked, to come back to SF 'cause for that day I will be him.

*Share with us something that you will always remember about SF.*

Hmm, I will remember a lot of things actually. Such as:  
Getting addicted to SF and how I spent my time posting in chit-chat even during exams,  
The late night posting and PMing with Crooky and only two of us being online on SF,  
Becoming a moderator and being a part of such a lovely team.

And, of course, I will remember all the nice people I came to know.

**-Ang3l**

*What did you learn in the student forums, apart from the daily lessons life teaches us?*

I learned many things from this forum, which include hard work, as results won't be satisfactory without working for them, I took my exams as a game and I was really disappointed with the results. Other things that I learned include helping people, in more than just studies, to help them in their lives, and get help from them as well. I also learned that the distance between friends doesn't change if they aren't with you, your bonds might get stronger when you're away from each other.

*Share with us something that you will always remember about SF.*

I will always remember my days in SF, when everyone was joking and chatting in the chat room, and the chit-chat child board was my second home, I have a great family which always helps me in anything that I need help in, and no matter how much I thank them, it'll never be enough to show my gratitude. I will always remember the times when The Golden Girl, Romeesa-chan, and I were arguing over nothing everywhere.

**-Hush**



*What did you learn in the student forums, apart from the daily lessons life teaches us?*

One good trait of it is whenever I ask a query I get many solutions to them which are vital in their own way. With this, I learned how to handle problems with ease. I experienced the overseas countries; I smelled the discreteness and a different taste of their environment. I learned only participating or playing for winning is not important, but it is to give your cent percent; only thinking and dreaming is not important, important is to act upon the path that you have decided to follow. I started hating internet language but started loving to interact.

*Share with us something that you will always remember about SF.*

I will always remember the courteous and kind people I met; people with different tastes and nationalities – some very pious and distinct, many creative and many experts. How I used to be in a situation when the place is always boisterous, which is during the examination time, but the members had to follow stern principles and the staff members had to be punctilious to make sure everything is going on fine. I sigh when I think of those IGCSE and A-level days, when I used to hum around the different sections of the forum. Besides, I met pundits who were masters in their own fields.

*-Arthur Bon Zavi/ Theonlyone*

Well, there's not just one thing that I will always remember about SF. SF was always a magical place for me. It helped me fight boredom and study efficiently at the same time! Now most of you won't believe this, but seriously the only studying I did during my A Levels (except the 1 week before the exams) was to just answer questions or ask questions on the forum! I loved my time at SF and wish I could continue visiting (DAMN YOU MEDICAL COLLEGE). I will never forget the fabulous friends I made and late nights on the Chit-Chat board. Overall, the experience was...one word: AMAZING.

Keep it up SF!

*-MaNi\_DaDuDe*

*I heard my name many times, was somebody calling? Just wanted to see what's going on! So hi and bye*  
*-Sweetsh*



*Alright alright, I was really not going to write this but then my really deep ocean of a friend and admin urged me, to be honest, I am really lazy and didn't think I'd come up with something nice. Erm, actually, I still don't think I can come up with something nice.*

*Well, joining SF was a fluke. Purely. Back then I never thought that I'd stick to this one website for this long, it's almost 3 years now (is it, it's just a rough estimation of mine, check the stats, matey). I am saying so cause I joined it when I was in the 11th grade and now mashaAllah I've already joined a uni. I was so excited when I saw a member by the name TQ put up the bio jan 2010 papers. Next day I ran to school and told about it to a friend... and just so you know, she is an SF member as well, hailing from a country called Europa (according to her profile), don't worry no such place exists, she's just nuts.*

*So those days I used to keep checking SF for exam papers and stuff and realized there's something strange about the place cause apparently a certain SIR was a member there. One day I probably reached the chit chat board and saw people discussing each other's nationalities. I was very excited and posted that I am a Bangladeshi and in all the over-excitement, I even happened to mention that I am going to go Bangladesh for further studies and how I am not happy with the prospect.*

*Hmm, THEN, in my summer vacation following my AS exams I started SFing in the proper sense, posting in chit-chat and I was starting to like SF. The first person I spoke to was Shoshou..Mony but you could say my first 'friend' was Stylish Executive. He was shocked to find out I am a Bangladeshi. But the first Bangladeshi I found here was Naeem as in Heart Hacker (he is a loser, God alone knows where he is now). I used to RAG him a lot.*

*I spoke to Mony and I really liked her. So yeah, I was becoming a regular SF-er then and erm, in Jan, I met Saladin as in Engraved, I WAS SHOCKED to discover that he is a Bangladeshi too...MANN, it was a real shocker. Like those scenes that get repeated on the TV where the guy/girl keeps repeating 'WHAT?!' in shock,*

*(continued...)*

*Life is a series of steps, more of a bomb. If you this-arm any of its wires in its non -logical sequence, your life will literally explode.*  
*-Meticulous*



*A week later I got my AS results which really disappointed me but screw the past. What I was trying to do then, and am trying to do now, is to do my best to help SF grow as much as possible. Cause I am indebted to SF. No, not cause I met people and blah blah, yeah I got friends like Nid and Engraved and they're unforgettable... I knew them in real time and now, I know them in real life. Apart from that, I love Alpha, GG, MONY, Roxy, Mony-Roxy's rocking best-friendship cause it is so much like the kind of relationship I share with my real life best friend. There is Dibsy, MaybeIt, Kim and so many others I really miss. Oh yeah, I made more Bangladeshi friends later, Amelia and Esha... don't worry I love you guys as well. But... thing is I wish I met you all... I still do..*

*I am happy that I did little things for SF... like there is this newsletter cover page I designed, I uploaded a couple of books here... I don't want a word of thanks but I just want you guys to remember me in your prayers... Always.*

*The most disappointing SF moment was when SHOUSHO left. Man it felt as if she is deliberately creating a hole and you badly want to stop her, you do want to, but you just can't. She was so determined about never coming back, I understand buddy, things must have been hard and you must have had strong reasons. But trust me, I am sure a lot of people felt your absence strongly and I definitely was one of them.*

*Whenever I get reminded of SF today I form this picture of a huge and really tough GIRL team in my head... which in fact is an A-team, full of values and oozing with energy and fight for a change on the planet. Indeed, we'll strive to win the world. I'm sure Roxy, Romeesa and Shou would all agree.*

*Friends and peeps—all those I've mentioned and those I haven't mentioned, I have a message... I just want to let you know that the world and bandwagon have really nothing to do with us, it is the truth that we know and have dug deep down inside ourselves that should mean the world to us.*

*(continued...)*

*...so many pages of death, while death comes in a matter of a second. Death might be bored reading this (he might be thinking, that we are making all weird assumptions about him / or he must be happy that we are making right assumptions about him).*

*- SGvaibhav*



*Whether Truth about proper ways of running a site, a state or a system but there is an underlying principle, a truth. We have to work and improve ourselves to uphold what is TRUE. We have to come to terms and acknowledge. I mean you will keep running after the world, hankering after wealth but it will only cost you, your conscience, your OWN SOUL. The soul doesn't lie. Your actions lie. Your soul knows it. It is only when your soul is at peace that you will find peace. Cause when everything will die out and you will be all alone, you will have that little soul to answer. Take a stand and do not care for what anyone is going to say, care for that soul inside of you and admit the truth to yourself. Admit, acknowledge and then act.*

*Chingoo quoted: 'Happiness ain't a state of affairs, it is a state of mind'.*

*So I guess I've blabbered enough. Thank you for the time and please bother Alpha if it's a headache reading this cause really, she urged me. (Sorry, Alpha deary, you gotta bear the brunt of being MY admin.)*

*Take care, stay safe and happy, and please, stand up for the truth. You're like me, 17/18/19... we're old enough to know by now, what is right and what is wrong. Cause only then, we'll be able to strive and achieve something which is both sustainable and substantial.*

*-MH*

*"When you feel like cryin' and weepin'  
When words can't describe that awful feelin'  
Remember that banana dancin'  
And Keep on Smilin'!!  
~ MujtabaM*



# PHOTOGRAPHY

## BY OUR MEMBERS

*Enjoy the perspective of our talented photographers as they give you a visual tour of Middle East, Europe and the Island of Indian Ocean.*



**There's a tree! Below the sea, I  
can see it!  
So, where's my gift now?**

**Buheira Beach, Sharjah, UAE.  
Photo credits: Romeesa**

*Yea.. sometimes you just lose hope and feel like it is the end of the world.. and sometimes you  
feel like you're at the top of the world.. soo happy and don't even know the reason.*

*-\*Hope\**





**If you see flamingoes in the sky, you are probably a genius.**

**Buheira Corniche,  
Sharjah, UAE.**

**Photocredits: Romeesa**



**My son told me he wanted a new haircut. My wife told me to show him around here.**

**Mamzar Beach, Dubai, UAE.**

**Photocredits: Romeesa**



**And Romeo let his lady jump first... because he wanted to get in the Titanic alone.**

**Albion Beach, Mauritius  
Island.**

**Photo credits: ~Alpha**

*My mood doesn't even shift to an excited stage - just stays Normal - I am not even wishing for a party - I don't know what to do - but I have to waste my time properly LOL*

*-Amii*





**Your mama told you not to kiss a frog.**

**King Butterfly, Mauritius Island.  
Photo credits: ~Alpha**



**\*Drums rolls\*  
Presenting the three  
mosquitoes...  
I mean, musketeers!**

**Sunset Yellow Flowers,  
Mauritius Island.  
Photo credits: ~Alpha**

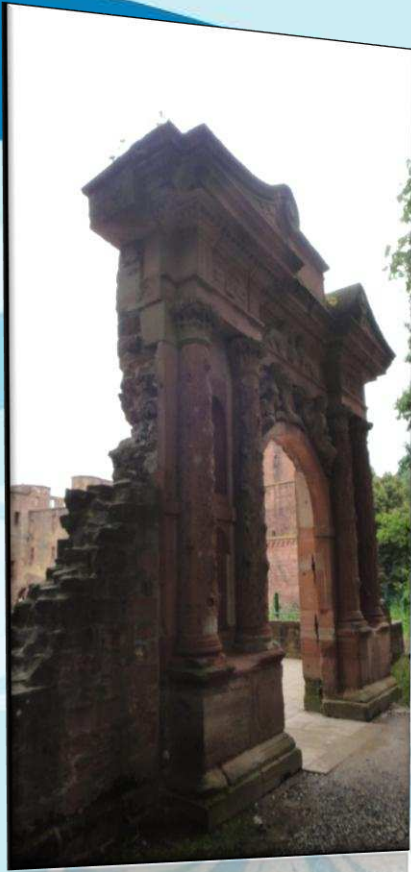


**Forgetful Newton! Again, he  
wore his specs upside down.**

**Petrin, Mauritius Island.  
Photo credits: Deadly\_king**

*I'm just gonna say damn This World Is Lonely Without people Like Me  
- NidZ - Hero*





**When enemies do not bother to knock at the door...**

**Elizabeth's Gate, Germany**

**Photo credits: Amelia**



**Seems like enough rooms for my family and I to live in...  
On second thoughts, doesn't seem to be very homey.  
Okay, let's not breed all our generations there.**

**Otthenrichsbau, Germany  
Photo credits: Amelia**

*Photo caption credits:*

*~Alpha and Roxy*

*HAHAHA EXACTLY! As soon I saw the topic I couldn't wait to open it! And when I opened, it was toooo boring!*

*-Most UniQue™*





**Monkeys are needed to fit in the scene, and hold the tree that is falling.**

**So, come to stay.**

**Le Morne, Mauritius Island**

**Photo credits: Deadly\_King**



**The grass is always greener on the other side of the shore...**

**Riambel Beach, Mauritius Island**

**Photo credits: Deadly\_King**



**Perhaps the crocodiles will make space for us to bathe in? Ought send them an SMS!**

**Heidelberg, Germany**

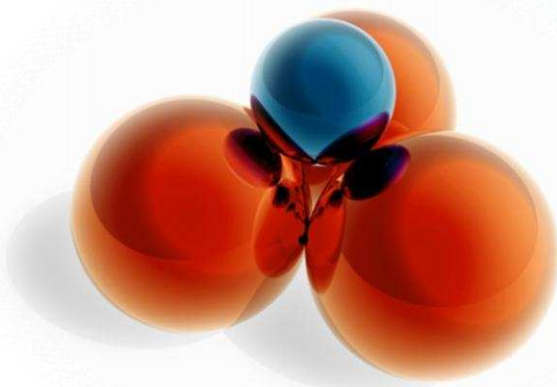
**Photo credits: Amelia**



# TO THE TEAM...

No man was ever endowed with a right without being at the same time saddled with a responsibility. ~Gerald W. Johnson

This is exactly what we learn through experience as a moderator or an administrator. Duty and responsibility, words that we use every now and often but are difficult to abide to. Perhaps even more difficult because everyone in the administration team was a member before being someone in position, because each of us had a couple of friends before being entrusted with duties, because we once, carefree, enjoyed the limited freedom the forum offers before having to arduously determine the constraints of it.



*What do we do? Do we satisfy everyone? If yes, then how to make it possible? Do we follow the established rules, or do we challenge them?*

*I like creative criticism, only a true friend will give you creative ones*  
- ExamPapersGeek



*When is it a yes and when, a no? When exactly should we act strict? And if we do, would people hate us? Would we invite coldness if being responsible sometimes means pissing people off? And what of the friends we once had? Will they still be with us? What of the impression we create among our guests? What about the forum's goodwill? Will activity slow down as a result of choosing a particular course? How strong should law and order be enforced? If everybody is right in his own place, then in whose place should we sit and act? There are oldies and newbies, who to give preference? No matter what, we must do our duty, this is what we were selected for, after all, but should it cause personal harm to us? Is it sometimes better not to act and let things happen under the normal course?*

*But then, does that mean we are being lazy? There are so many things to do, and each of them has its gains and repercussions—but which one to choose? What would have others before us done? What impression should what we do now transmit to those yet to come?*

As the above paragraph would lead you to think, there are many things simultaneously running in our minds while deciding on what exactly to do. Sometimes it takes us days and days, going through series of heated arguments—in brief, everything you will find in a Ministers' assembly. Not knowing what to do is easier to solve than not knowing which option to choose. Every choice comes with a sacrifice—what exactly to sacrifice is from where emerges the biggest hesitation.

But still, we take pride in the fact that we are doing it. As a team, we face everything that happens together. Even if we are sometimes inevitably led to fights and arguments, we are there to support and shelter each other when in need. If the bad falls, it will fall to us all. If good is gained, it will be shared among us all. There is force in unity, but there is unity in team spirit.

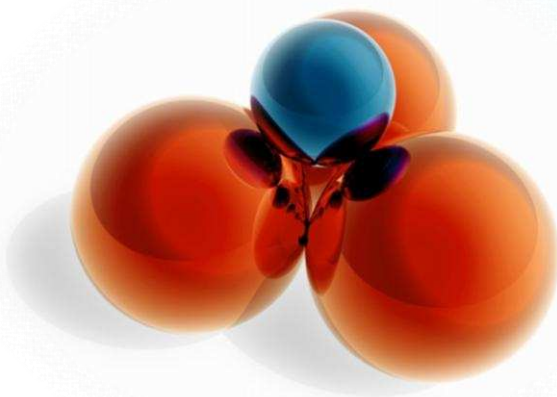
*"2010 - the year I joined SF because I wanted to discuss the answers for my IGCSE papers. I ended up with so much more than just answers."*

*-Dibbs*



There is learning in doing the things that you've not been an advocate of. There is learning in compromising with what others of your crew find wisdom in. There is learning in stepping together with others. There is learning too, in doing things for nothing in return—for the sake of doing them.

And for doing this heavy task eloquently, for being there when needed, for teaching others and learning from them as an ongoing process, and for being responsible in placing the pillars that have made this forum the monument that it is today, we wish to wholeheartedly thank all the people who once worked and all those who are still working to bear the saddle of responsibility that comes with a right. Thank you for being the role models we need. We take pride in you.

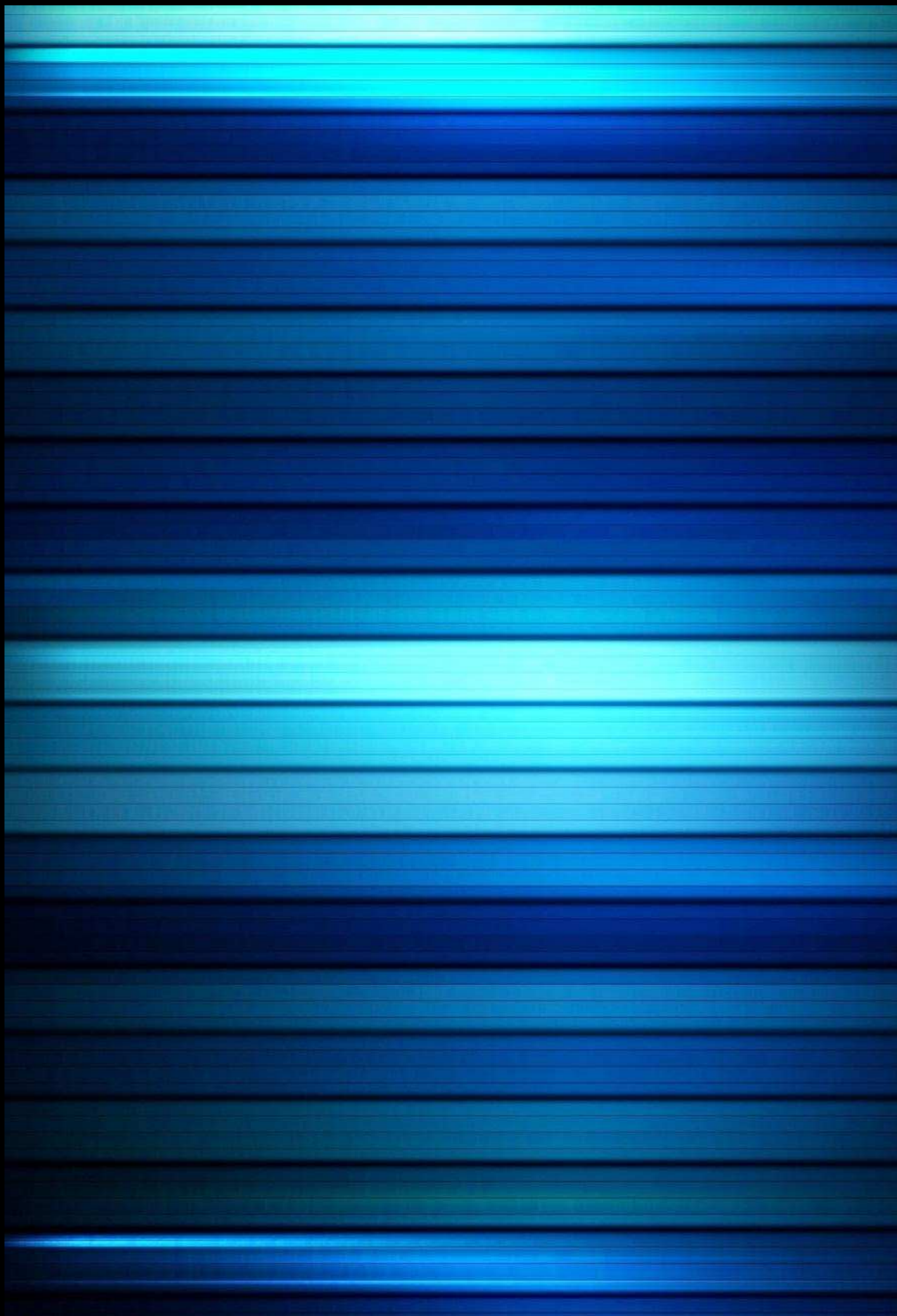


By Alpha & Amelia

*Life is more meaningful only when you grow up when you get to know that it's not only you whom you have to live for there are many people whose heart beats are joined with you in some or the other way....!!*

*-AOL*







# GREETINGS AND GRATITUDE



*Winter has come by,  
Snowflakes have sprinkled the land,  
Christmas carols are to be sung,  
And Jingle Bells to be rung  
Santa Claus is fantastic...and  
...his gifts mayhap be dramatic*

*May this Season bring you the  
The gift of love,  
The gift of peace,  
The gift of happiness, and  
The gift of success!*

*Wish you a **Merry Christmas** and a **Prosperous New Year!***

*Honestly speaking I really had a great time here, made amazing friends,  
got help with studies and also enjoyed being a moderator.*

*– Zara/Twinkle Charms*





*There is no other occasion more befitting to thank-you, our dear readers, for your support and love. We hope and wish that you never tire of our magazine. Your contributions are most appreciated and ever welcome!*

*Frankly speaking I don't like to, you know hate people or think anything negative about them and stuff...*

*- Vin*



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NEW

