

The logo for 'Light my way' features the words 'Light', 'my', and 'way' stacked vertically in a white, rounded, sans-serif font. The text is set against a background that is split diagonally from the top-left to the bottom-right. The upper-left portion is a vibrant blue, and the lower-right portion is a muted, dusty blue.

Bait-ul Ilm Secondary

My Didar Journey

This booklet belongs to

Name _____

Age _____

Didar Mubarak to you and your family

Didar is a very special blessing in the life of a *murid*. Throughout history, the presence of the Imam has been a source of strength, comfort and guidance.

A physical Didar is a moment when we can feel deeply connected to the Imam. This connection helps guide us towards living with purpose, compassion and understanding.

As you prepare for Mawlana Hazar Imam's visit, this booklet, built around the theme of light, has been created to support you on your personal journey of reflection and growth.

Inside the booklet, you will find poems, reflective tasks and meaningful activities.

This is your booklet. Use it as a tool to:

Explore what light means

Ask big questions

Listen with your heart

We wish that this Didar deepens your gratitude, strengthens your kindness, and draws you closer to the Imam and to one another.

A useful link for parents



This booklet has three parts: before Didar, Didar day and after Didar.

It will be used weekly at Bait-ul Ilm, or can be used at home.

Bait-ul Ilm lessons are available on the UK visit website at the.ismaili/visit/uk/learning-resources

Part 1

Before Didar

- Week 1 Searching for light
- Week 2 Connecting to the light within
- Week 3 Living the light
- Week 4 Getting hearts and minds ready

Searching for light

Noticing moments of curiosity, questions, and learning that help us grow.

Close your eyes for just a moment and picture this: The final whistle has just blown on the biggest match of your life. Maybe you’ve just scored the winning penalty. Maybe you’ve just missed it.

You’re standing alone and a powerful, quiet thought breaks through: “What is all this really about? Why am I here?” It’s the realisation that your life is a story and you suddenly, desperately want to understand the plot: What is the purpose? Where is it really headed? This isn’t a sign of being lost. This is the very first, most important sign of searching for light.

One of the most famous seekers of light was a 13th century poet named Jalaluddin Rumi. He turned his question into some of the most beautiful poetry:

Whence Have I Come?

Every day I meditate upon this, and every night I groan
Why is my own existence to myself the least known?
Whence have I come, why this coming here?
Where to must I go, when will my home to me be shown?
I am in desperate awe. Why was I ever created?
For this, my creation, whatsoever was the reason? ...

Reference: Faith and Practice in the Islamic Tradition Vol 1. Pg.11

As you begin your journey in anticipation of Didar - let's start where every true search begins: The courageous act of asking the big questions.

What are the big questions you might ask?

In religious traditions based on the belief in God, the individual is seen as a unique creation of the Maker. Each person is given a soul that reflects the divine spark in one’s being. A spiritual quest is ultimately personal, returning each soul to its Creator.

Reference: Faith and Practice in the Islamic Tradition Vol 1. Pg.22

Think of a time when you felt guided to make a good decision.

What or who was the most important source of that guidance and why?

Tips: Family - Prayer - Mentor - Coach - Role models
- Inner voice - Imam’s guidance



Habits I have now

Habits or tools I already use to think clearly and make good choices

Habits I want to build

Habits or tools I would like to start using to help guide my decisions

This week is about searching for guidance, clarity and goodness in ourselves and the world around us

Each day, take a small step towards noticing what lights your path and helps you grow. There are no right or wrong answers.

What matters is sincerity.

day 1
Recognising light

Write or sketch one thing Allah created that brings you comfort or hope.

Reflection: How does this remind you of Allah’s guidance?



Remember
Those who search with intention find light.

day 2
Light through others

Ask someone, “What helped you today?”

Reflection: Listen carefully and notice how people can be a source of light for one another.

day 3
Seeking knowledge

Learn one new fact, idea or teaching today.

Write one sentence about how this knowledge can guide your choices.

Reflection: How does new knowledge open my mind.

day 4
Inner light

Sit quietly for five minutes. Pay attention to your thoughts and feelings.

Reflection: What might they be guiding you towards?

day 6
Gratitude for guidance
Shukrana

Write three things you are grateful for that help guide you. E.g. people, values, opportunities, faith.

Reflection: How can you express this gratitude to those that guide you?

my weekly reminders

day 5
Being a light

Do one kind act without being asked or expecting thanks.

Reflection: How can your actions become a guiding light for others?

day 7
Intention and direction

Before Bait-ul Ilm today, pause and reflect on your intention and one thing you wish to learn.

Reflection: What guiding light am I searching for, and how can I take one step towards it?

Your personal space to express feelings and make note of your questions and ideas ✨



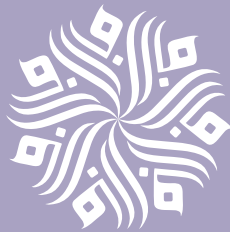
Connecting to the light within

Reflecting on our values, strengths, emotions and how we connect to the Imam’s guidance.

The journey to find answers to life’s biggest questions, is where your search begins. Deep inside, you may feel that there is a source, a beginning, a light guiding you on your journey.

Just like a light that shines in the darkness, some designs can guide us and inspire us to keep learning, growing and following the guidance of the Imam.

This search for light is reflected in the designs below. They bring the Jamat together, helping us feel connected and giving us a true sense of belonging.



The Ismaili



Ismaili Volunteers
Khidma



Global Encounters

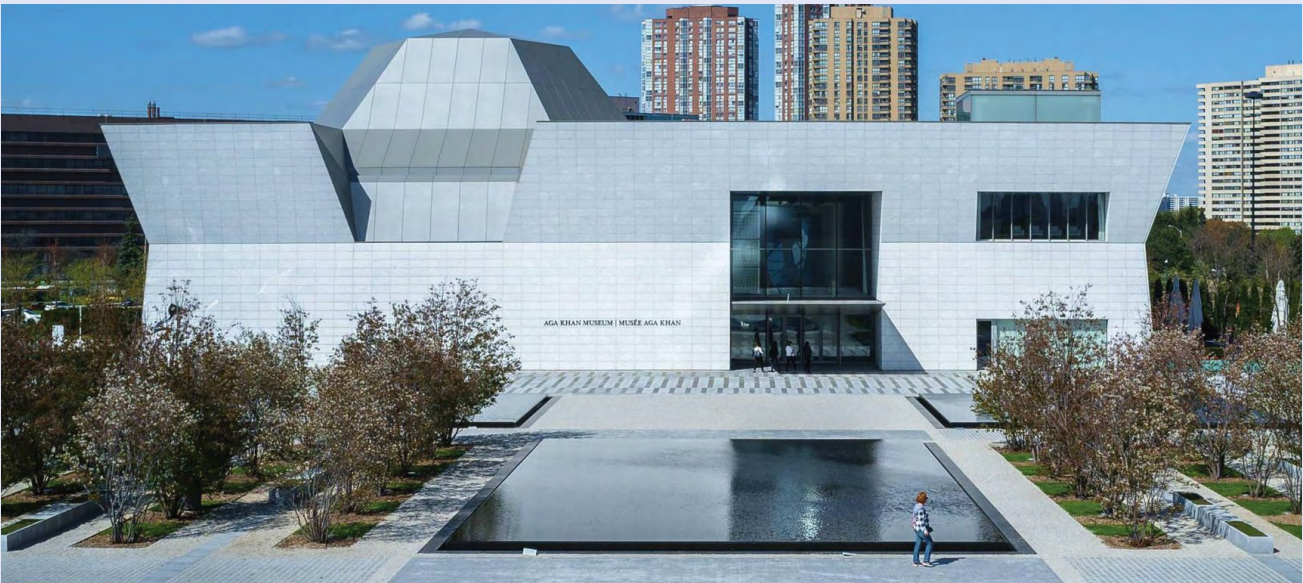
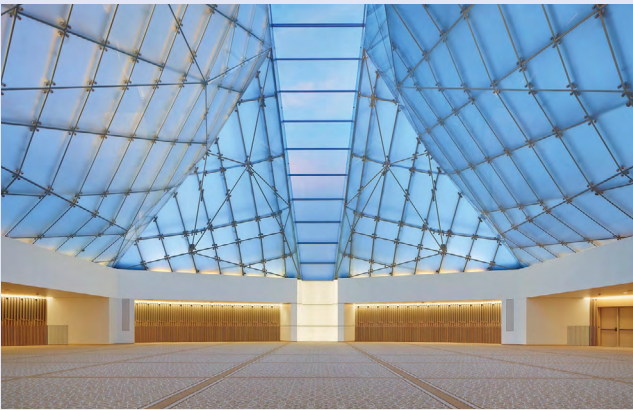
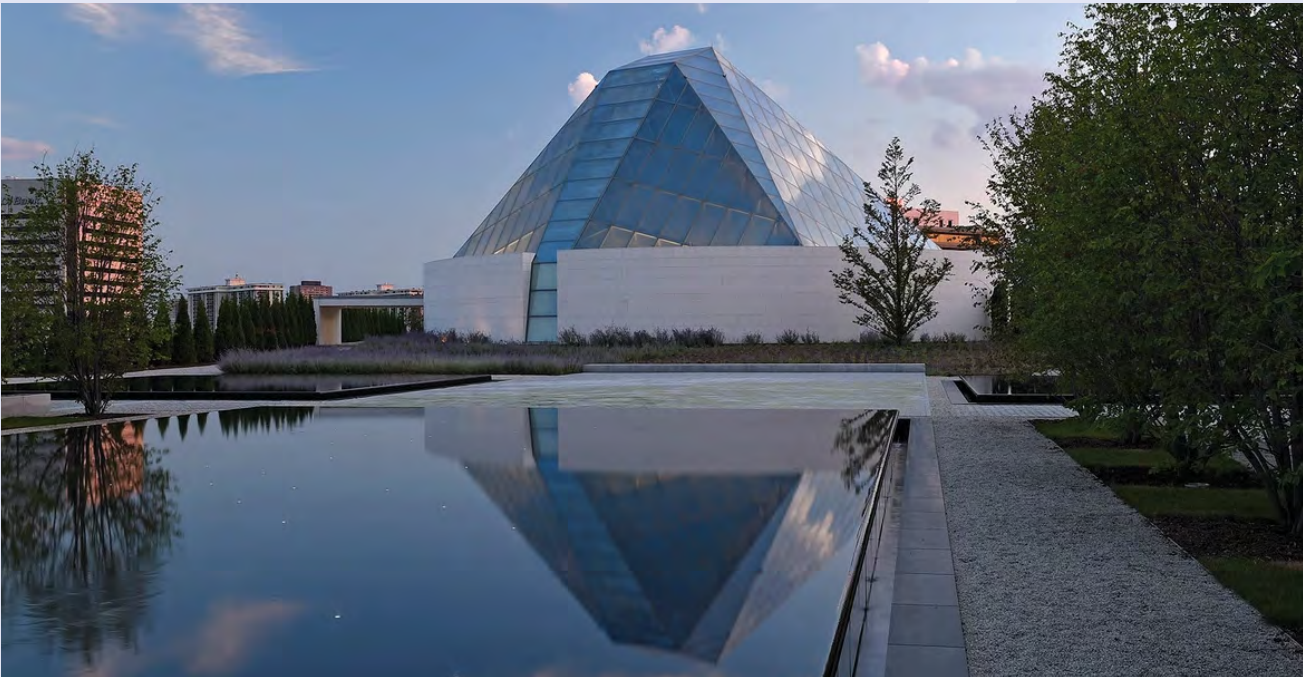
Mawlana Shah Karim Shah (peace be upon him) noted that:

“...from the outside, it will glow by day and by night, lit by the sun and the moon. The use of light speaks to us of the Divine Light of the Creator, reflected in the glow of individual human inspiration and vibrant, transparent community.

As the poet Rumi has written: ‘the light that lights the eye is also the light of the heart... but the lights that lights the heart is the light of God.

Foundation ceremony of the Ismaili Centre, Toronto, the Aga Khan Museum and their Park, 28 May 2010

Architectural buildings, such as The Ismaili Centre Toronto and the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto, Canada, take the concept of light as their central theme.



Credits: the.ismaili and agakhanmuseum.org

Inaugural visit motif

Below is the motif graciously approved by Hazar Imam for his visits to the worldwide Jamat.



The motif has two layers:

First layer
Nur (light) repeated five times
in a calligraphic style.



Second layer
The floral Fatimid pattern
designed in a circle to represent
the concept of one united Jamat.



Together, this gives us the motif
for the inaugural visits.

The motif represents light,
guidance and hope

Colour it in a way that reflects how it speaks to you.



The continuity of divine guidance

Have you heard about the famous question of our Ismaili poet philosopher, Nasir Khusraw?

He read in the Qur'an the 'Verse of Oath' which indicates that Allah's hand is stretched over the hands of those who pledged allegiance to the Prophet Muhammad (may peace be upon him and his family). This made him begin to wonder...

Where can I now find that hand, that oath, that place?

Whose hand should we touch when swearing allegiance to God?

Or should not (divine) justice treat equally those who came first and those who came later?

Reference: Faith and Practice in the Islamic Tradition Vol 1. Pg.97

Nasir Khusraw found his answers in the presence of Imam of his time. In the Shia tradition, the principle of Imamat forms a central aspect of faith. It emerges from the concept of prophethood, based on the need for the continuity of divine guidance in all times.

Explore the concept continuity of divine guidance with yourself, your parents or family members. Ask them "How have you seen the continuity of guidance shape our community's life, practices, values and institutions such as schools and hospitals?"

What does continuity of divine guidance mean for ...

...you?

...your family?

...your community?

Bay'ah, oath of allegiance

Mawlana Shah Karim Shah (peace be upon him) noted that:

“ For hundreds of years, my spiritual children have been guided by the rope of Imamah; you have looked to the Imam of the Age for advice and help in all matters and through your Imam’s immense love and affection for his spiritual children, his nur has indicated to you where and in which direction you must turn, so as to obtain spiritual and worldly satisfaction.

Reference: Faith and Practice in Islamic Traditions Vol 1. Pg.161

It was a historic moment for the Ismaili Jamat, when our 50th Imam, Mawlana Shah Rahim al Hussaini, began his Imamah - continuing the chain of Imamah. We watched as the Jamati leaders pledge *bay’ah* on the behalf of their Jamats.

If you could ask Hazar Imam one question to help illuminate your own path or a challenge you see in the world, what would it be?

In the fourth part of our Du’a, we recite the Qur’anic verse affirming that those who pledge their *bay’ah* to the Prophet Muhammad are, in truth, pledging it to God. These verses are understood in the Shia tradition as referring to the divine covenant. The believers honour their pledge to God through the Prophet and the Imams. It serves a personal commitment between the Imam and the *murid*.

Explain the meaning of *bay’ah* in your own words.

It is the act of acceptance by the murid of the permanent spiritual bond between the Imam and the murid. This allegiance unites all Ismaili Muslims worldwide in their loyalty, devotion and obedience to the Imam within the Islamic concept of universal brotherhood...

Extract from The Preamble to the Ismaili Constitution

Draw or describe a symbol to represent what bay'ah means for you to consciously accept this bond with the *Imam-of-the-Time*.

How do you feel...
Sharing this commitment with a global Ismaili community worldwide?

Put your pledge into practice...
Choose one meaningful action that truly puts your pledge into practice.

This week is about recognising the light within you and learning how to connect it to the guidance around you

The light that gives us guidance, such as Divine Light, Light of Prophets and Light of Imam, helps us see more clearly, but we also learn to listen to our own conscience and values.

Try each activity with honesty and care.

day 8
Choosing to follow the light

Follow one piece of guidance from your parent or teacher today, especially if it feels challenging.

Reflection: How did this help guide your actions?



Remember
Guidance helps the light within us grow stronger.

day 9
Acknowledging the light in others

Thank someone who guides or supports you.

Reflection: Tell them why their guidance matters to you.

day 10
Checking your inner compass

When you feel unsure, pause and ask yourself: Is this choice helping my inner light grow?

Reflection: Will this choice help my inner light shine brighter?

day 11
Respectful speech as light

Make a conscious effort to speak respectfully all day, especially during disagreements.

Reflection: How do words affect the light between people?

day 13
Quiet connection

Pray or sit quietly for three minutes.

Focus on calming your mind and reconnecting with your inner light.

Reflection: How does it feel to spark your inner light?

my weekly reminders

day 12
Applying guidance

Think of one lesson or teaching you've learned recently, from school, home or faith. Try to apply the teaching in a real situation.

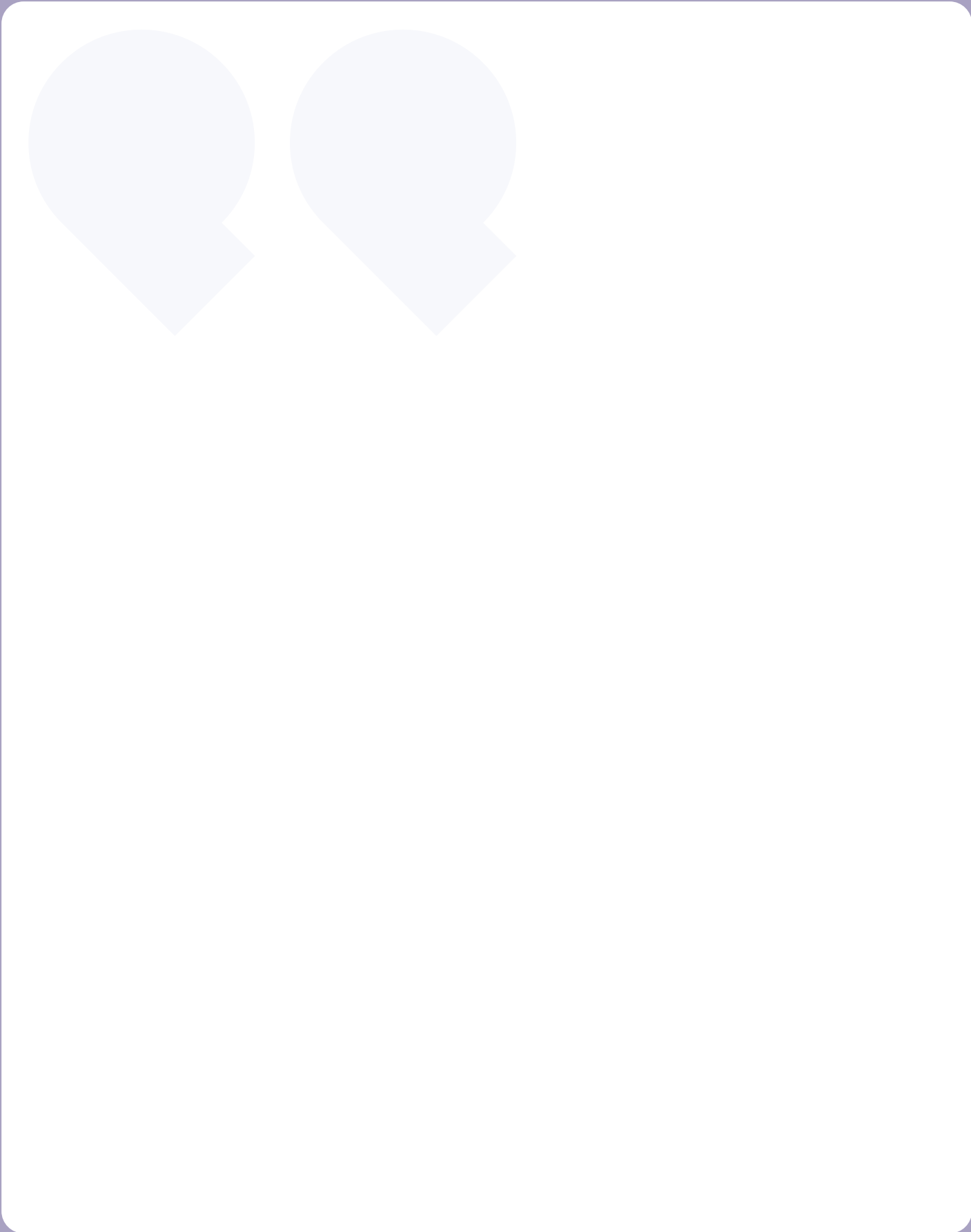
Reflection: How does it feel to put a learning into action?

day 14
Trust and direction

Before Bait-ul IIm today, pause and reflect on your intention. Think about one thing you wish to learn.

Reflection: Who helps me keep my inner light strong? How can I show respect for their guidance?

Your personal space to express feelings and make note of your questions and ideas ✨



Living the light

Understanding how the Imam's teachings guide our choices and actions in everyday life.

On the occasion of the *Takht-nishini*, our beloved Hazar Imam announced that:

“**In the coming months, I very much look forward to visiting my Jamat... Feel your Imam's presence.. Khanavadan, Khanavadan, Khanavadan.**

Farman Mubarak, Mawlana Shah Rahim, *Takht-nishini*,
Diwan of Ismaili Imam, Lisbon, Portugal 11 February 2025

Throughout history, our Imams have shared immense love and affection for all their spiritual children. Their love transcends the physical boundaries. Hazrat Imam al-Mu'izz (may peace be upon him) told the Jamat:

Indeed, even when you are physically away from us, our souls are together, in our mutual love for each other and in our affection for you and in your affection for us. Closeness cannot just be in physical terms, but also needs to be in spirit. Your souls... are close to us, even if our bodies and locations are apart!

Reference: Hazrat Imam al-Mu'izz —
Faith and Practice, Vol 1. Pg.167

Which phrases or words resonate most in your heart?

Highlight, circle or write them larger.

Now look at the words or phrases you've written above.
Gently notice what shifts within you, in your heart, your thoughts and your spirit.

Murids of Hazar Imam, express their love for the Imam in various ways.

Have you heard of the story where Moses once met a shepherd?

‘O God who chooses (whom You will), Where are You, that I may become your servant and sew Your shoes and comb Your hair? That I may wash Your clothes and kill Your lice and bring milk to You, O Worshipful One; That I may kiss Your little hand and rub Your little foot, (and when) bedtime comes I may sweep Your little room...’

Prophet Moses who was shocked. He said:

‘What babble is this? What blasphemy and raving?
Stuff some cotton into your mouth!...’

The shepherd told Moses, ‘You have silenced me and filled my heart with regret.’

Then, torn with sorrow, he sighed deeply,
turned toward the wilderness, and walked away.

At once, a revelation came to Moses from God:

‘You have parted My servant from Me...

I have bestowed on every one a (special) way of acting:

I have given to every one a (particular) form of expression...

I look not at the tongue and the speech;

I look at the inward (spirit) and the state (of feeling). I gaze into the heart (to see) whether it be lowly, though the words uttered be not lowly...

‘O Moses, they that know the conventions are of one sort,
they whose souls and spirits burn are of another sort.’

Write a letter to Hazar Imam.

What would you say about your preparation for Didar?

Tip: Would you tell him about your journey? Would you say thank you? Would you share a hope?

This week is about living the light

The guidance we receive begins to shine through the choices we make every day.

Each activity helps you practise kindness, honesty and responsibility, so your actions can light the way forward.

day 15

Sharing the light

Do one intentional act of kindness at home, school or Jamatkhana. Choose an act that helps someone without expecting recognition.

Tip: Sit with someone who is alone, even if it feels a bit awkward at first.

Reflection: How did this act bring light into the situation?

day 16

Honesty as light

Be honest in a situation where it would be easier not to be.

Reflection: How does honesty help your inner light stay clear?

day 17

Responsible use of time

Make one responsible choice about how you use your time. Tip: Reduce screen time, help out at home.

Reflection: Did this choice help or distract your inner light?

day 18

Learning to shine forward

Learn something new that could benefit you now or in the future. Tip: A new skill or fact.

Reflection: Write one way this knowledge could be used kindly.

day 20

Reflecting on choices

Write about one good choice you made this week and one choice that was difficult.

Reflection: What helped you choose the light?

my weekly reminders

day 19

Healing the light

If you have hurt someone, apologise sincerely or choose to forgive someone who has upset you.

Reflection: How does letting go of negative feelings protect your inner light?

day 21

Becoming the light

Before Bait-ul Ilm today, pause and reflect on your intention and one thing you wish to learn.

Reflection: How did my actions this week become a source of light for myself or others?

Remember

Every good choice adds light to your path and to the lives of others.

Your personal space to express feelings and make note of your questions and ideas ✨



Getting hearts and minds ready

How can we prepare to meet the Imam on Didar day with gratitude, intention, and respect?

Having even a glance of Hazar Imam is a wish and hope of many murids around the world. In the Shia Ismaili tradition, the term Didar refers to the occasions when the murids are graced with the presence of the Imam. Didar is a Persian word meaning ‘seeing’ or ‘vision’.



Credit: the.ismaili

Do you have family or friends in another country who have already been blessed with Didar?

Talk to them and find out about their experience.

What you are curious about on the day of Didar?

Have you or anyone in your family experienced a Didar, Darbar or Mulaqat in the past?

Ask them to share a memory or story with you.



Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him and his family) taught:

“ For everything there is a polish, and the polish for the heart is the remembrance (*dhikr*) of Allah.

What tasbih do you like to recite?

What intention (*niyyah*) do you set in your heart when you recite it?

Tip: Is it for gratitude? For forgiveness? To feel closer to the Imam? To seek strength?

How can I welcome Hazar Imam with my best self?

Write a few sentences.

My Didar checklist

- ☐ Smile
- ☐ Kindness
- ☐ Open heart
- ☐ Patience
- ☐ Tasbih
- ☐ Good manners
- ☐ Light My Way booklet
- ☐ Gratitude
- ☐ Respect for others
- ☐ Helping hands
- ☐ Listening quietly
- ☐ Positive attitude
- ☐ Honesty
- ☐ Forgiveness
- ☐ Unity with others
- ☐ Focus during prayers
- ☐ Readiness to learn
- ☐ Love for my Imam
- Add your own...
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This week is about preparing your heart and mind to be present

Being in the presence of the Imam is not only about where you are physically, but how you arrive. Calm, grateful and aware.

Each activity helps you practise stillness, respect and intention.

day 22

Preparing with intention

Prepare your personal space: your room, desk, bag, with care.

Reflection: How does outer order help create inner calm?

day 23

Calm as respect

Make a conscious effort to speak calmly and kindly all day. Even when you are excited or frustrated.

Reflection: How does calm speech reflect respect in the Imam’s presence?

day 24

Stillness and awareness

Spend five minutes in quiet reflection or prayer.

Reflection: How does stillness prepare your heart and mind.

day 25

Quiet sincerity

Do one kind act quietly, without telling anyone or expecting praise.

Reflection: How does sincerity prepare the heart?

day 27

Gratitude before Didar

Before bedtime, recite *shukrana tasbih* slowly and with focus.

Reflection: What blessings are you carrying into Didar?

day 26

Understanding Didar

Share a thought:
“Didar is special to me because...”

Reflection: What does it mean to approach the Imam with love and readiness?

day 28

Arriving present

Come to Bait-ul Ilm calm, observant and reflective.

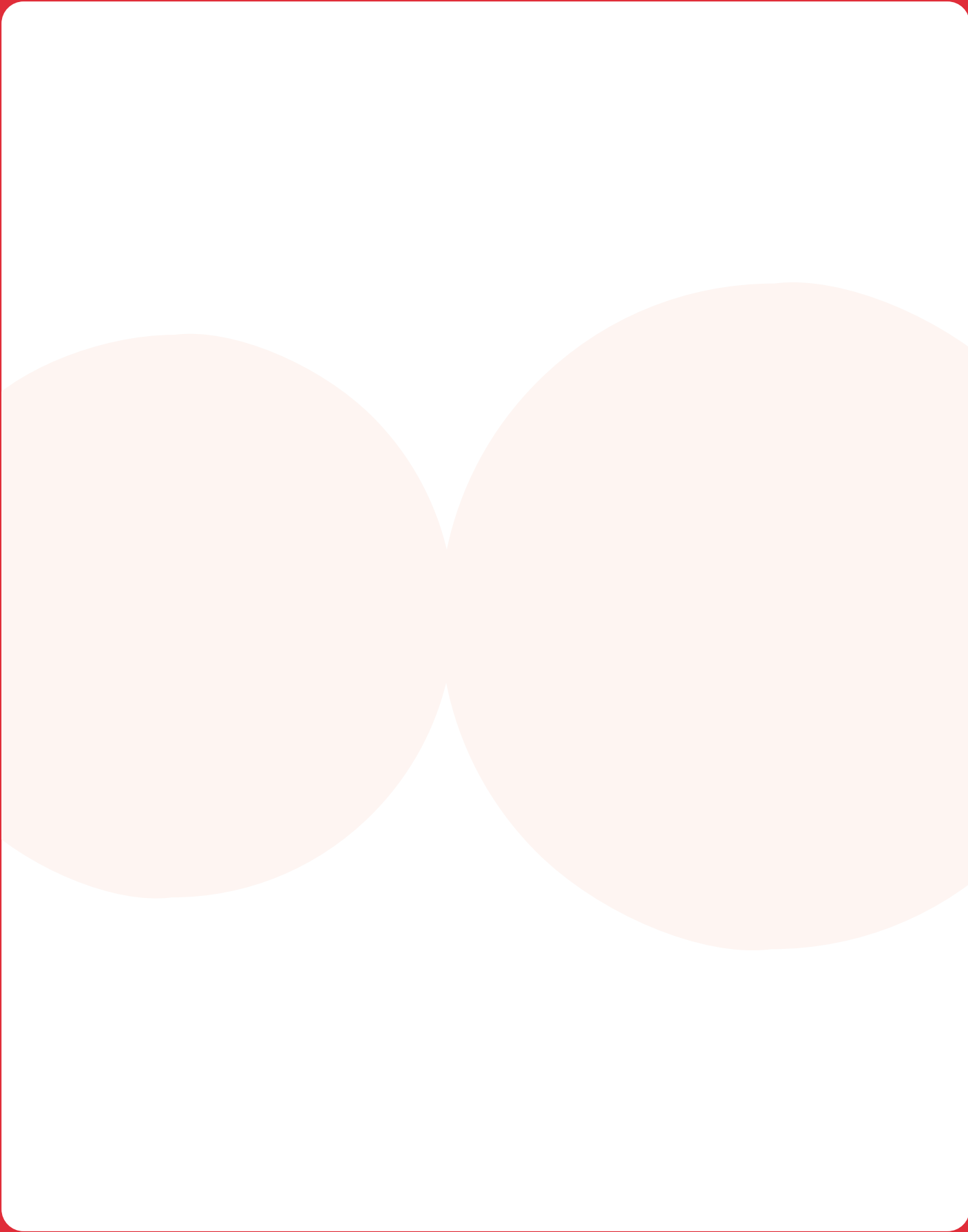
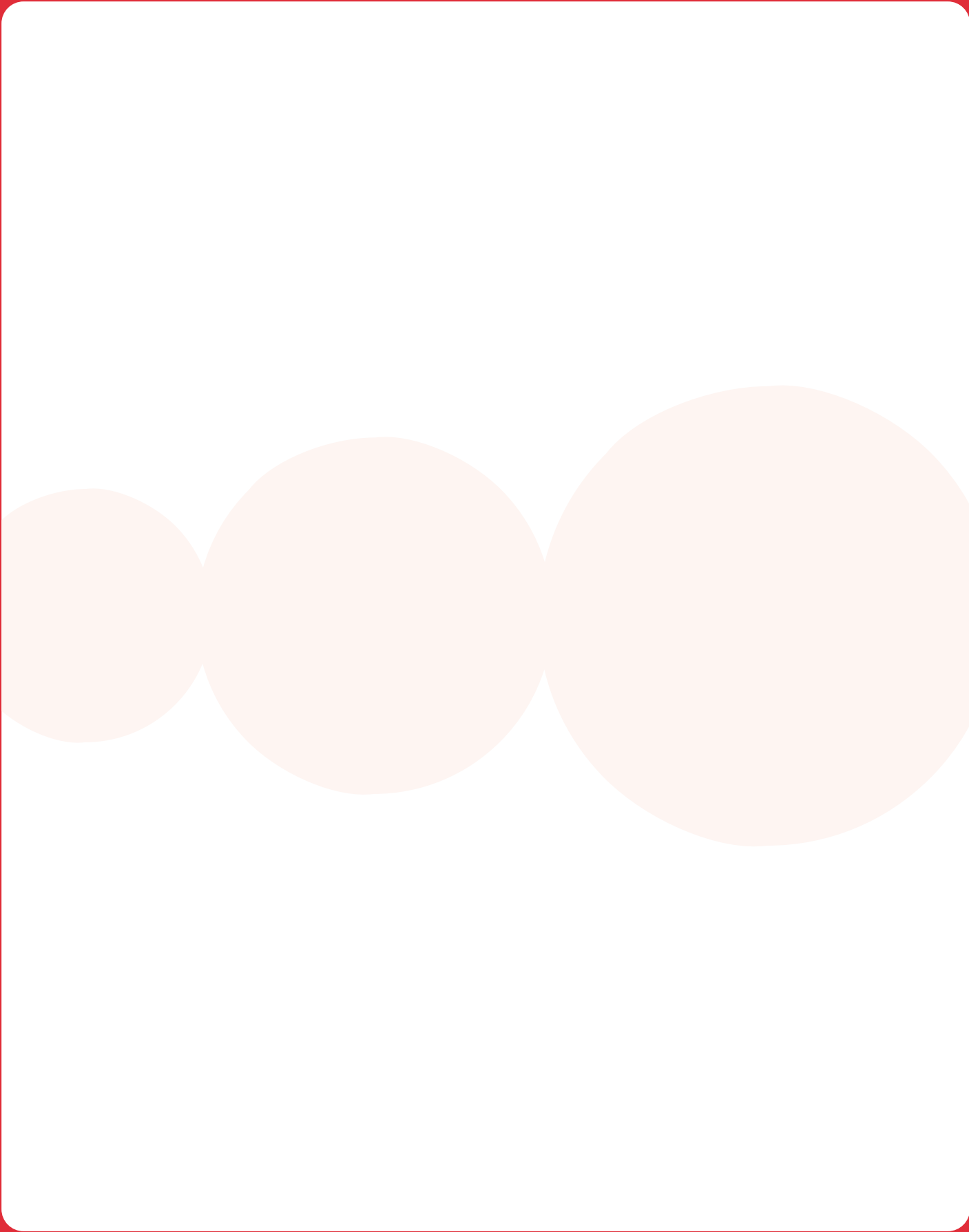
Reflection: Notice how your preparation affects your experience of learning and presence.

Remember

A peaceful heart is ready to receive blessings.

my weekly reminders

Your personal space to express feelings and make note of your questions and ideas ✨



Part 2

Didar Day

Look for little ways to show gratitude, be kind and help others - just like you have been practising over the past few weeks.

Waiting for the Imam

activity 1

Notice, observe and reflect.

Take a quiet moment to look around and check in with yourself.
Try square breathing, inhale, hold, exhale and pause.

activity 2

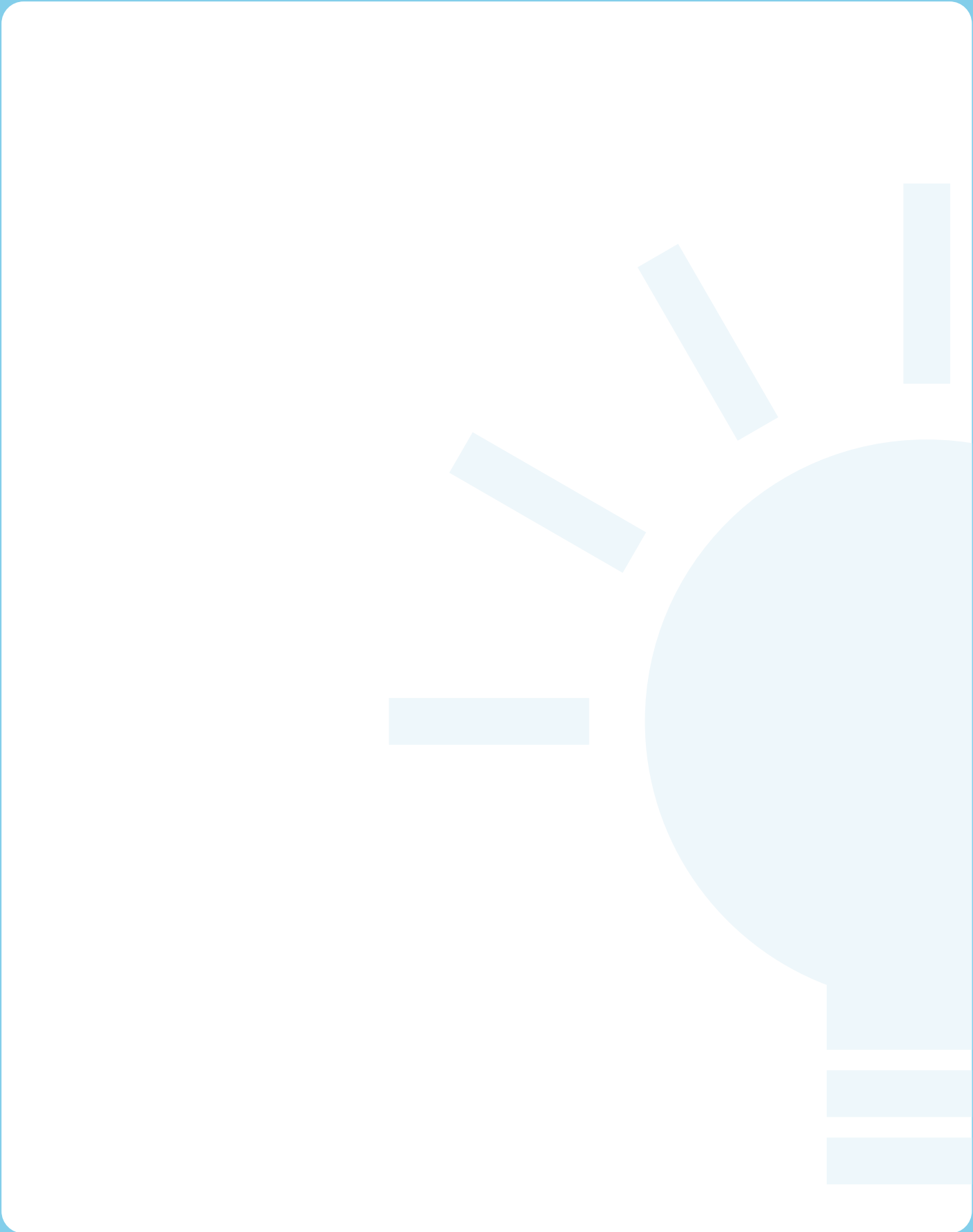
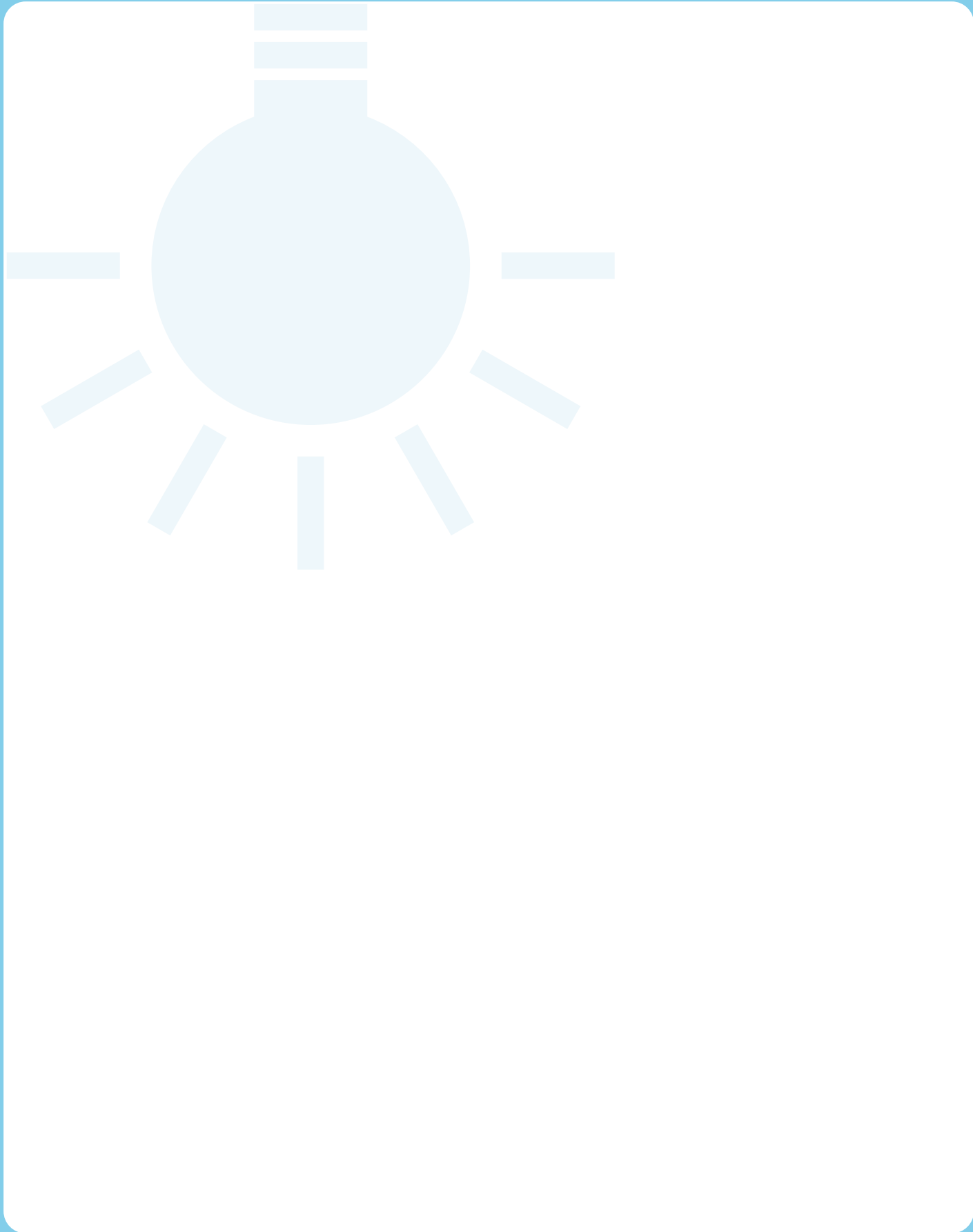
Write three words that describe the feeling in the room.

activity 3

Draw three things you notice in the Didar hall.

Tip: The stage, the reciters, the Jamat and even your family.

Your personal space to express feelings and make note of your questions and ideas ✨



Part 3

After Didar

Now that you have experienced the Didar, it is your role as a *murid* to understand, engage with the Imam's guidance and think about its application in your daily life.

Reflecting on the experience

Didar Mubarak to you and your family for having been in the presence (*huzur*) of the Imam.

Let's go back to the moment when you experienced the Didar. If it helps, you can close your eyes, take a deep breath and let yourself be immersed in that moment again. You can use the space below to share your unique sensory experience.

activity 1

Draw or write about how you felt seeing Hazar Imam.

Take a moment to sit quietly before writing or drawing.

Tip: What did my heart feel? What feeling will I remember?

activity 2

Farman of Hazar Imam.

Note down some of the key messages from the Farman that you will remember.

Small actions are like seeds

When nurtured with consistency and remembrance, the seeds will send out roots. Subtly changing our habits, shaping our interactions and our contributions to the world.

Your journey starts with one seed. What will you plant today? What small commitment can you make to Hazar Imam?

activity 3

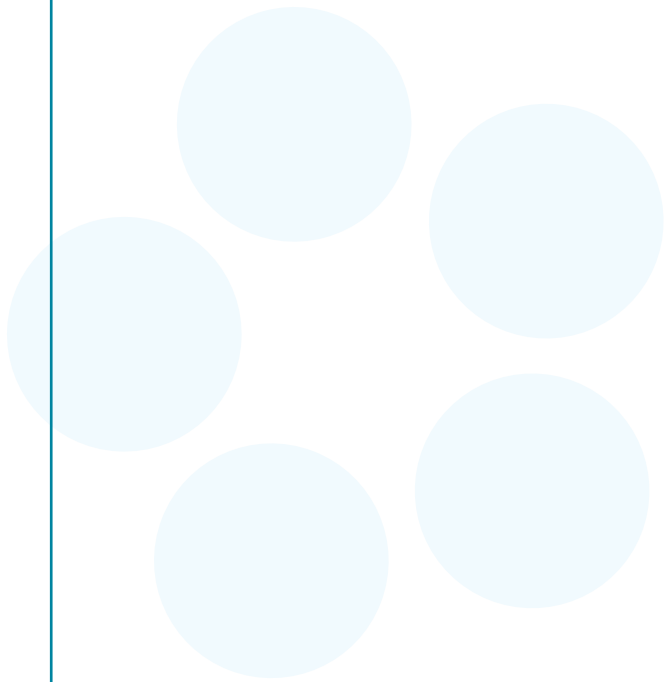
Write down four positive actions that you will apply in your daily life.

I promise to...

I promise to...

...take care of our planet.
Just like this booklet is made from recycled paper, I will make a conscious effort to recycle paper at home as best as I can.

I promise to...



I promise to...

Meaningful words

Here are some words you may have come across.
Feel free to add in any more you want to remember.

Adab - respectful and appropriate conduct when in the presence of the Imam-of-the-Time.

Batin - the inward, esoteric or spiritual dimension of faith and understanding.

Bay'ah - the pledge or oath of allegiance made by a *murid* to the Imam-of-the-Time.

Dhikr - repeatedly invoking the names of Allah as a form of prayer.

Didar - the Persian word meaning 'seeing' or 'vision' of the Imam-of-the-Time. Physical Didar refers to occasions when the Imam-of-the-Time visits the Jamat to give guidance and perform religious ceremonies.

Huzur - in the presence of the Imam-of-the-Time.

Ibadat - acts of worship and service that nurture spiritual growth.

Ilm - Knowledge; in Ismaili Tariqah, divinely inspired knowledge given by the Imam-of-the-Time.

Imamat - the institution of guidance and leadership in Islam, particularly in Shia Islam; in Ismaili Tariqah it is led by the Imam-of-the-Time.

Intezar - a state of eager anticipation and spiritual preparation of a murid while awaiting the Didar of the Imam-of-the-Time.

Jamat - community bound by a common allegiance (*bay'ah*) given to the Imam-of-the-Time.

Mulaqat - a meeting or an encounter with the Imam-of-the-Time.

Murid - a follower of the Imam-of-the-Time.

Nazrana - an unconditional offering to the Imam-of-the-Time.

Niyyah - sincere intention that gives meaning and purpose to actions.

Nur - light, in Ismaili Tariqah, divine light of the Imam-of-the-Time, as a source of spiritual guidance and life.

Salawat - a special prayer of blessings on Prophet Muhammad (may peace be upon him) and his family.

Shukrana - an expression of deep gratitude and thankfulness to Allah for blessings.

Tasbih - remembrance of Allah through prescribed phrases.

Walaya - love, devotion and spiritual attachment to the Imam-of-the-Time.

Wilaya - the spiritual authority and guardianship vested in the Imam-of-the-Time.

Zahir - the outward, exoteric or apparent dimension of faith and its practices.

Your personal space to express feelings and
make note of your questions and ideas ✨





May you continue
to grow on your
journey...

✦ **Stay curious**

Keep wondering, exploring
and asking questions.

Be kind

Choose kindness in your words
and actions everyday.

✦ **Express gratitude**

Thank others and share smiles
wherever you go.

And keep searching

Look for the light within you
and let it shine.





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