





## Friends

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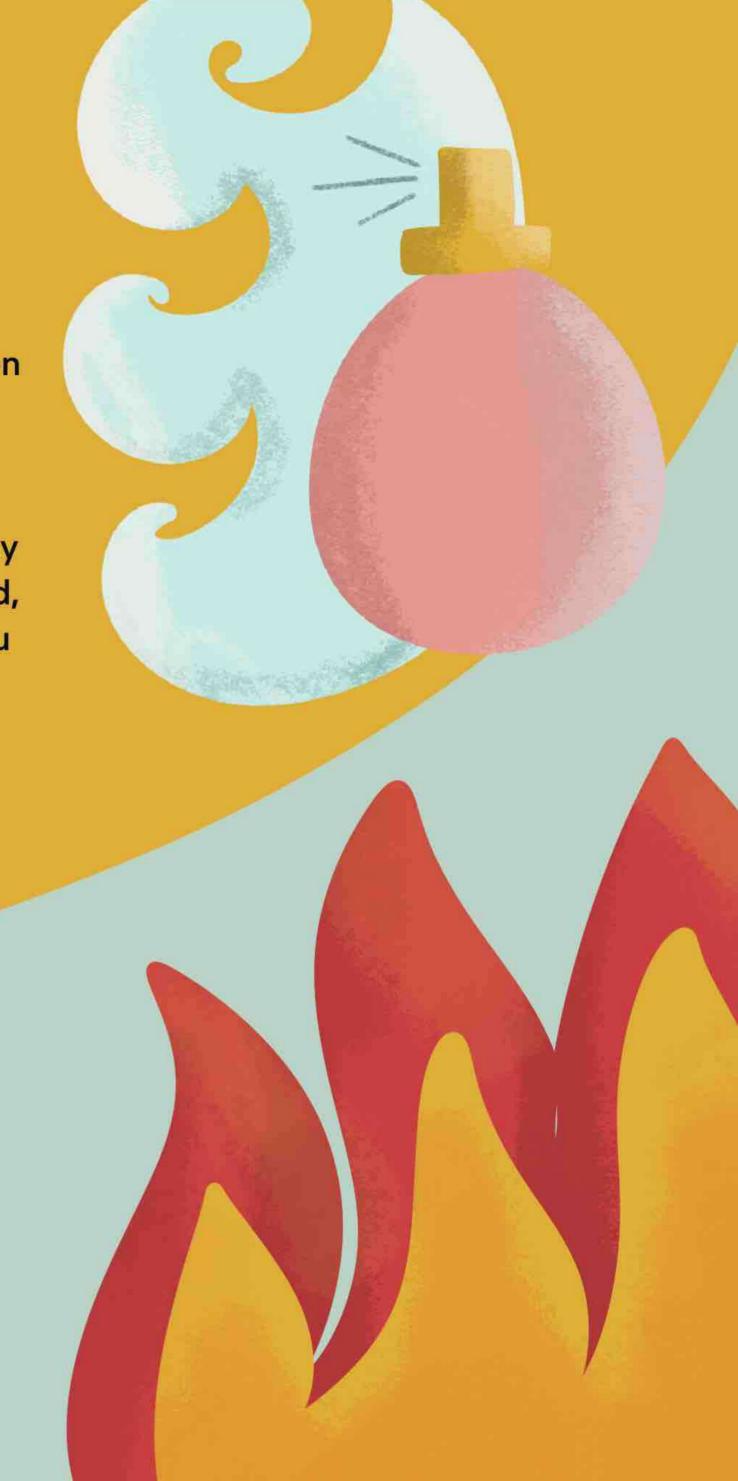
Have you ever heard an Arabic proverb that says, "Friends can influence (attract)."

If we surround ourself with righteous and noble people, we will be influenced and imitate their goodness. On the other hand, if we surround ourself with unrighteous people with bad behavior, we too can be influenced and imitate their bad deeds.



The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) gave an analogy about this.

He said, "The example of a good companion and a bad companion is like that of a perfumes seller and a blacksmith. A perfumes seller may give you some perfume, you may buy from him, or you may enjoy the pleasant smell. On the other hand, a blacksmith may burn your clothes, or you may be affected by his unpleasant smell." (Sahih Bukhari and Muslim)



Therefore, we should choose our friends wisely. Good friends will help us in obeying Allah. When we make a mistake, they will remind us. When we are neglectful, they will help us back to goodness.

Conversely, if we do not choose good friends and a positive environment, gradually we will be influenced by evil. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "A person is on the religion of their companion. Therefore, be mindful of who your friends are."



