

MNEMONICS

commonly used to help students of Islamic inheritance law (*‘ilm al-farā’id*) remember the ***Qur’ānic heirs (ashāb al-furūd)*** under the Code of Muslim Personal Laws of the Philippines (PD 1083, Book III, Title III, Chapter I–III; esp. Articles 110–124):

Mnemonic for Qur’ānic Heirs (Sharers)

Mnemonic:

👉 “HFW FFGG DDUU”

Explanation (13 Sharers):

Mnemonic	Heir	Article	Share
H	Husband	Art. 111	$\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$
F	Father	Art. 113	$\frac{1}{6}$ (+residuary)
W	Wife	Art. 112	$\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{8}$
F	Mother	Art. 114	$\frac{1}{3}$ or $\frac{1}{6}$
F	Father’s Father (Grandfather)	Art. 115	$\frac{1}{6}$ (+residuary)
G	Grandmother (Maternal or Paternal)	Art. 116	$\frac{1}{6}$
G	Granddaughter (Son’s Daughter)	Art. 118	$\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{2}{3}$ (with others)
D	Daughter	Art. 117	$\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{2}{3}$
D	Daughter of Son (lower line)	Art. 118	$\frac{1}{6}$ (with Daughter)
U	Uterine Brother	Art. 123	$\frac{1}{6}$ or $\frac{1}{3}$
U	Uterine Sister	Art. 122	$\frac{1}{6}$ or $\frac{1}{3}$

Mnemonic for Residuaries (‘Aṣabah)

Mnemonic:

👉 “SSB FFB”

Mnemonic	Residuary	Description
S	Son	Takes remainder after sharers
S	Son’s son (and his descendants)	In absence of son
B	Brother (full or consanguine)	Takes residue if no descendants
F	Father	Becomes residuary after $\frac{1}{6}$

Mnemonic	Residuary	Description
F	Father's father	Becomes residuary if nearer heirs absent
B	Brother's son	Next degree of male agnate



Mnemonic for Exclusion Principles

Mnemonic:

👉 “Nearer Bars the Farther”

or **Arabic Rule:** “*al-aqrab yuhjib al-ba‘īd*”

Meaning: A nearer relative in degree excludes a more distant one of the same line and gender.

Examples:

- Son excludes grandson.
 - Father excludes grandfather.
 - Full brother excludes consanguine brother.
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Mnemonic for Distant Kindred (Dhawu’l-Arḥām)

Mnemonic:

👉 “UNCLES AND AUNTS LOVE NIECES AND NEPHEWS”

These include:

- Maternal uncles/aunts
- Paternal aunts
- Children of brothers/sisters
- Maternal grandparents
- Children of daughters

(See PD 1083, Art. 128–131 for distant kindred provisions.)



Summary Pyramid of Heirs (Memory Structure)

Level	Type	Examples	Mnemonic
1	Sharers (Ashāb al-Furūd)	13 heirs with fixed shares	“HFW FF GG DDUU”
2	Residuaries (‘Aṣabah)	Male agnates	“SSB FFB”
3	Distant Kindred (Dhawu’l-Arḥām)	Others related through females	“UNCLES AND AUNTS LOVE NIECES AND NEPHEWS”



Tip for Exams:

To remember order of distribution:

WAS → *Will* → *Administration of debts* → *Shares (Ashāb al-Furūd)* → *Residues (‘Aṣabah)* → *Distant Kindred (Dhawu’l-Arḥām)*

Mnemonic: “**WAS** → **Will, Ashab, Surplus**”



References:

- **PD 1083**, *Book III, Title III: Legal Succession* (Arts. 110–124)
- **Qur’an 4:11–12, 176** (primary verses on inheritance)
- **Classical Fiqh**: al-Qudūrī, *Mukhtaṣar*; al-Nawawī, *Rawḍat al-Ṭālibīn*

Disclaimer:

This material is for **study and research purposes only**. It is **not legal advice**. For binding rulings on inheritance, consult a **Shari’a court or accredited Shari’a lawyer**.