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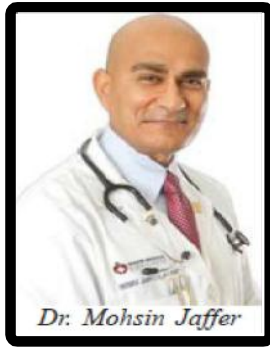
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Inshaa Allaah Maashaa Allaah

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Shaikh Shafayat

**The Angel of
Death
&
Our Souls**

*Summarized by Bro. Kaleem
AL-HIKMAT Representative*

We remind ourselves about life, death, the soul and the place known as Barzakh. The Quran speaks at length as to what happens to us after we die and this is because some peoples till do not believe. In Surah Sajdah Ch 32 vs 11: Say, "The angel of death who has been entrusted with you will take you. Then to your Lord you will be returned." There is an angel in charge of taking each of our souls, dedicated by Allah before we were even born. Therefore, in Islam we do not question the decree of Allah. Our deaths and those of our loved ones were already written. We have no control over this just as much as we have no control over whom we are born to. In Surah Taha Ch 20 vs 55: "From the earth We created you, and into it We will return you, and from it We will bring you back again." From the day our soul leaves this body, it suffers the consequences if we were not good. The soul of an evil person is taken out forcefully while that of a good person is removed peacefully and taken back to Allah.

The souls of good people meet and interact in Barzakh in happiness just as they did before. In this world we sometimes feel inclined towards certain people. It may have been that our souls knew each other in the time before our existence. In Surah Hashr Ch 59 vs 1: "O you who have believed, do your duty to Allah. And let every soul look to what it has put forth for tomorrow - and fear Allah. Indeed, Allah is Aware of what you do." We do not need to wait till Qiyamah to receive the fruits of our actions. From the time our soul leaves our bodies it will experience either reward or punishment. To that end, the Prophet (s.a.w.) tells us about Sadaqa Jaariyah which gives us continuous blessings even after we die. We spend so much time learning to invest for this world, we also need to learn to invest in the akhirah. Finally, let us not live in this world to please people.

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AL-QUR'AAN - Ch. 3 V. 104

"Let there arise out of you a band of people inviting to all

HADITH: *Abu Sa'eed (R.A) narrates that Rasulullah (S.A.W) said, "Almighty Allaah says: "If anybody finds no time for remembrance and for begging favors of Me, because of his remaining busy with the Qur'aan, I shall give him more than what I give to all those who beg favors of Me. The superiority of the Word of Allaah over all the other words is like the superiority of Allaah over the entire creation." (Tirmidhi)*

AL-QUR'AAN - Ch. 5 V. 67

"O Messenger, spread that which has been revealed to you from your Lord, and if you do not, then you have not conveyed His message. And Allaah will protect you from the people. Indeed, Allaah does not guide the disbelieving people."

AL-QUR'AAN - Ch. 16 V. 125

"Invite (all) to the Way of thy Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching; and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious."

AL-QUR'AAN - Ch. 41 V. 33

"And whose words are better than he who calls towards God, and does righteous deeds, and says, "Verily, I am of those who have surrendered to God."

HADITH: *Hadrat Uthman (R.A) narrates that Rasulullah (S.A.W) said: "The best amongst you is he who learns the Qur'aan and teaches it."*

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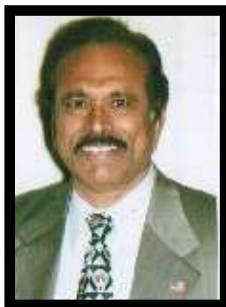
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FROM BANK OF AMERICA TO THE BANK ALAKHIRAH

By Taj Siddiqui

Few months ago, I was inspired by an article penned by a Hindu writer. This is the story of a rich man who worked hard all his life and builds a huge empire of wealth and honor. He has several businesses, properties, and other assets all over the globe. One of his wealthy life-long friends was very close to him. One summer afternoon they were on his expensive yacht, enjoying the vast ocean and clear sky above. Suddenly his friend started feeling chest pains, and then he collapsed. He was having a heart attack. They called for help and the friend was airlifted to the nearest hospital. He expired in the air-ambulance. Three days later he was standing in the cemetery looking his friend being buried. That night he realized that the end is coming, and he may be next. He saw his friend in the grave in a simple inexpensive white piece of cloth, alone by himself, empty handed and with nothing else. He was not able to sleep. So, this is the end? He can no longer possess his wealth, his properties, his businesses, and everything that belongs to him. His huge empire of billions of dollars will stay here, and he can NOT take even a tiny portion of it with him. He panicked. From next day on he started asking his family, close friends, financial experts, spiritual gurus, and religious leaders to find a way to take at-least some of his wealth to his grave. The unanimous answer was a plain and simple NO. You have to leave everything here, and you cannot take a grain of rice with you. Suddenly the rich man started feeling very poor. He realizes the real value of his empire. He became very depressed and went into seclusion. Very soon he was going to the grave with nothing. Not a single dime from his enormous wealth worth billions of dollars. Then one day he found the answer. On his way to his high-rise office building in his chauffeur-driven expensive car, every day he used to see a poor man selling toys and other cheap items on the side-walk. The next morning, he stopped the car near that poor person, got out and sat on the sidewalk next to him. Somebody offered him a chair, but he told them that he and the poor man are both of the same status. We both will go empty handed. The poor man replied that this is not true. You can take your wealth to your grave. The rich man jumped up in excitement. He was waiting for this answer since his friend died. He offered the poor man a hefty sum of money to tell him the way he can do this. The poor man told him to calm down and listen to him. Have you read and understand our Nobel book Quran? The rich man replied, no I have not. I did sometimes read it in Arabic, a language foreign to me. I never try to understand it. I have no idea what it tells us. The poor man replied, it tells you how to take your wealth to your grave.

Continued on Page 42...



Life, Death & The Hereafter

By Bro. Farooq Shafi

Allaah SWT says in the holy Qur'an:
"All that exists on earth will perish"

"Save the face of your Lord with its magnificence and glory"
Every now and then, our preachers, our scholars and our *khateeb*s remind us of this fact. Sometimes we listen to them inattentively, sometimes we yawn; other times we shake our heads up and down in agreement without particularly moved by what they have said, until it hits us personally, when there is a death in the family; a loved one passes away and a life familiar to us suddenly comes to an end. *"Verily, the knowledge of the hour is with Allaah alone. It is He, who sends down rain and He who knows what is in the wombs; nor does anyone know what it is that he will earn in the morrow; nor does anyone know in what land he is to die. Verily with God is full knowledge and He is acquainted with all things"* (Qur'an 31:34)

We have no choice where we are going to be born, in America? in the thick forest of Africa? or in the dust bowl of Arabia? We cannot choose to be a member of an affluent family or a starving family. We cannot be Black or White by choice. Our fates, our places of birth, our genus and our race are determined for us by our Creator.

Let us now think about our strengths and our prowess as human beings. We are scientists; we are engineers; we are doctors and researchers. We make great strides in all these fields. We probe deep into matter; unfold the secrets of nature; send spacecrafts into the cosmos; station Hubble telescope in space and catch the glimpses of galaxies billions of light years away. We discover cures for hitherto incurable diseases. We think that we have conquered nature but are our conquests unlimited? Are we not helpless in determining where we are born and how we shall die? Death comes to us suddenly with a mosquito bite, a contemptible, miniscule creature. Our spacecraft takes us far into space but only as far as we are allowed to go, as the Qur'an declares: *"Oh assemblies of jins and humans, if you are able to pass beyond the zones of heavens and earth, do it by all means but you will never be able to do it without authority (from Allaah)."* Our prowess is only to the extent we are empowered to, by God. Everything, which is created, has a linear dimension on the time scale, with a beginning point and an end point. There is also a lateral dimension, which determines the field of existence — the capacity field. This is the enclosure in which every species' capacities are confined. This also holds for the cosmos. The satellites and stars confined to their orbits. Every animal has a size limit, which is written into its DNA. A cat cannot grow into a tiger. Men cannot grow to be sixteen feet tall. Our perceptions have their ranges. Man's vision has a range. He cannot see beyond violet at one end and red at the other, whereas some animals can see what man cannot see and hear what man cannot hear. Likewise, our intellect has a range too. Human brain is getting bigger as the brain cells increase. We may not have reached the maximum range of our intellect yet, as more discoveries are awaiting us. Our space travel has not reached its farthest point, as our destinations are yonder still but the limit is imminent.

Continued on Page 35...

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AL-HIKMAT RECOGNITION CORNER

Dr. Barbara Sharief



Dr. Barbara Sharief

Broward County Commissioner Dr. Barbara Sharief was born in South Florida and is a long-time resident of District 8. In her personal life, Barbara is a mother of three children and an active volunteer in the Broward County Schools. Her father was a self-employed clothing salesman, and her mother assisted her father in the financial workings of his company. Professionally, Commissioner Sharief is a self-made businesswoman. Her career began after she graduated from North Miami Senior High School and enrolled at Miami Dade Community College. She later graduated from Jackson Memorial Hospital School of Nursing and obtained an Associate of Science Degree in Nursing from Miami Dade Community College. She continued her educational pursuits and obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Master of Science in Nursing, and an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Degree from Florida International University. Commissioner Sharief is one of the youngest people to have passed the RN board exam in Florida. She has more than 26 years of experience in the specialized field of issues pertaining to medically complex children. In 2001, Commissioner Sharief founded South Florida Pediatric Homecare Inc. The company is currently servicing residents of Broward and Miami-Dade Counties providing jobs for approximately 200 professionals in South Florida and has done so by providing an invaluable service. As a business owner and active parent, her commitment to her community led her to public service. She was Commissioner and Vice-Mayor for the Miramar City from 2009 to 2010. In 2010, she was elected to the Broward County Commission, District 8 which serves the culturally diverse population of Hallandale Beach, Miramar, Pembroke Park, Pembroke Pines, and West Park. In 2013, Commissioner Sharief was selected as the first African American Mayor of Broward County and in 2016, was selected once again as Broward County's Mayor. During her tenure, she has advocated for affordable healthcare, mortgage and foreclosure relief, solutions for homelessness, and for entrepreneurial/small business assistance and mentoring programs. Commissioner Sharief has been a member of the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) since 2009 and in 2015 was elected President. She has also been a member of the National Association of Counties (NACo) since 2009 and currently serves as Chair of the National Association of Counties' Subcommittee on Medicaid. Commissioner Sharief will continue representing her constituents on a state and national level to advocate for economic stability through job creation, small business support, advocating for COVID 19 financial assistance, affordable healthcare, equal access to care, fair wages, neighborhood revitalization, education, equal rights for all and quality care for the elderly, veterans and children.



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Throughout the day, we must try to consistently think about Allah (SWT) and praise Him (Subhanallah..Glory be to Allah, Alhamdulillah..

All Praise is for Allah, AllahuAkbar...Allah is The Greatest). He has created the masterpiece of this universe, however, His true masterpiece is in the Heavens. In the universe, from the birds to the flowers to the skies, the mountains and the beautiful seas; they are all but a small sampling of Allah's exquisite art. These creations do not know of its own beauty and significance, but we (humans) are the beneficiaries of these creations. We are the only ones (as far as we know), who are capable of perceiving beauty, appreciating it and expressing our wonder of Allah's creations. Every tree serves a purpose, as does every drop of rain, every ray of sunshine, as does the darkness of the night. Allah (SWT) created the sun, moon and stars for our benefit and we are all subservient to Him. Allah's (SWT) greatness is reflected in humans, because He has given life to billions of people on this earth, and He has created for each one, specific and unique features and personality, so that no one is exactly the same (Alhamdulillah). Imagine a world without color, without beauty, without trees, flowers, mountains, birds and without blue skies! Allah's (SWT) magnificence shows in the colors and beauty of the earth that He has created. Every breath of air we breathe, every time we blink, every movement of our limbs, every heartbeat, every second we are able to see, hear, speak, think, taste, are all blessings from Allah (SWT), that we should not take for granted. Allah (SWT) is truly amazing and He alone is responsible for all these blessings. "Which of the favors of your Lord do you deny?" At the sight and thought of Allah's creations and craftsmanship, we should be moved to praise Him. Let us consistently make the time to truly appreciate and acknowledge all of Allah's (SWT) greatness and His many favors, and every time we see one of Allah's (SWT) creations, and marvel at its beauty and power; let us instantly praise Allah (SWT) and know that all this is for us to appreciate and enjoy. However, we need to work hard and do more good deeds to gain Allah's (SWT) pleasure in order to receive His true masterpiece of Jannah (Heaven). When we pray our salaah, we need to focus on Allah (SWT) as if He is standing in front of us. When we do dhikr, we need to focus and properly pronounce each word and think of the meaning...Subhanallah:glory be to Allah, Alhamdulillah: praise be to Allah, AllahuAkbar:Allah is great. Let us remember, quality is better than quantity. When we pray to Allah, we have to contemplate His majesty and truly thank Him for all his favors and blessings. We have programmed ourselves to say "thank you" to others and to commend others on their good work, their appearance, their good personality, their kindness, and so many other things; but we do not spend enough time praising the One who has created man and enabled him to do good and blessed him with countless bounties. We need to make a concerted effort to remember Allah (SWT) more often. Here is some advice for life, for us all, "without doubt, in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find satisfaction". For those who believe and work righteousness, is every blessedness and a beautiful place of return.

QUESTION & ANSWER CORNER

By: Shaikh Shafayat Mohamed

POWER AND AUTHORITY Will Be Given To The WRONG PEOPLE

QUESTION: What are some of the signs of Qiyaamah happening presently?

ANSWER: Alhamdulillah according to Hadith, there are major and minor signs of Qiyamah. Some of the minor signs are happening right now some have already passed. Some of the signs are, the desert of Arabia turning green again; people competing in construction of tall buildings; trials and tribulations; time will pass rapidly; good deeds will decrease; people will become miserly; there will be much killing and murder; power and authority will be given to wrong people; honesty will be lost; the disappearance of knowledge and the earthquakes will increase; wealth will be in abundance, to the extent that it will be difficult to find someone in need of Zakaat; the consumption of intoxicants will be widespread; adultery and fornication will be prevalent; women will outnumber men, eventually the ratio will be 50 women to 1 man; people will strive for power about mosques; a dultery and fornication will be prevalent; paying Zakat becomes a burden and miserliness becomes widespread; charity is given reluctantly; when a man obeys his wife and disobeys his mother; and treats his friend kindly while shunning his father; when voices are raised in the mosques; female singers and musical instruments will become popular; women will be naked in spite of being dressed, these women will be led astray & will lead others astray; when untrustworthy people will be regarded as trustworthy and the trustworthy will be regarded as untrustworthy; the Masjid will be decorated, but the hearts of the people will be devoid of guidance; gangsters and evil people will prevail; various wines will be consumed excessively. Rasullulah SAW says : The major signs are like beads in a string. When a string is cut, all of them will fall down. So with the appearance of the first major sign, the rest will follow quickly one after the other.

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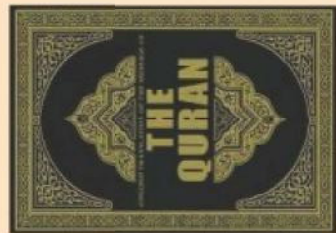
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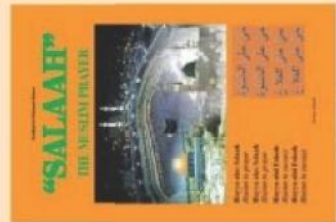
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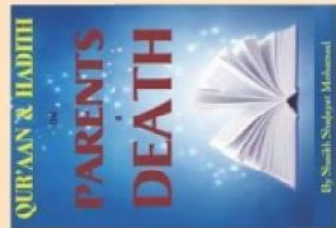
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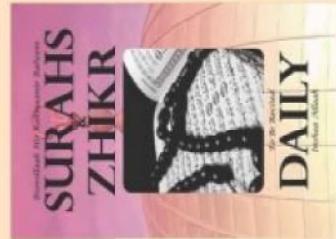
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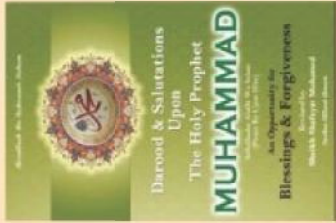
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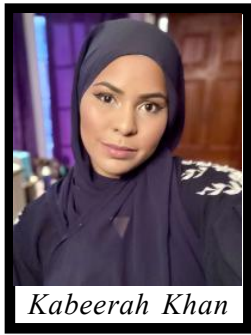


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In.Shuaa Allaah - Ameen - MaaShaa Allaah



Kabeerah Khan

Islam Loves & Respect Women Extremism Doesn't Learn The Difference

By Kabeerah Khan

Over the last few months, the coverage of the hijab in international news has been mentally and emotionally crushing for Muslim women across the globe. We feel as though our right to free choice no longer exists. The French government bans women from wearing hijab, then the European Union passes a law allowing employers to ban it in the workplace. Albeit the support of a few thousand defending the right of European Muslim women to wear their headscarves, real global outrage supporting Muslim women's free choice only came with the Taliban take over of Afghanistan. As a Muslim woman myself, it aches to know that my fellow sisters in Islam living in France are being forced to remove their hijab, while my sisters in Afghanistan are having their rights stripped away. But, it is the rise in Islamophobia and widespread misconceptions about Islam circulating the media and web that is most painful for me. I am a Muslim woman and I do not wear the hijab full-time. But I am lucky enough to live in a country that does not dictate my choice. Acknowledging this privilege, I wish to share with my readers the beauty of being a Muslim woman; the fact that many commands of Islam are indeed feminist in nature. My fellow Muslim women and I have once again found ourselves having to defend our faith and our choice to follow the religion of Islam. We have to remind everyone that Islam literally means peace and it is necessary to differentiate between Islam and extremism. Contrary to popular belief, Islam is a beautiful religion that holds women in very high esteem. The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) preached kindness towards women. He said to his Muslim brothers: "Fear Allah in respect of women" "The best of you are they who behave best to their wives," "A Muslim must not hate his wife, and if he be displeased with one bad quality in her, let him be pleased with one that is good" "The more civil and kind a Muslim is to his wife, the more perfect in faith he is."

Muslim men are commanded to treat their wives with the utmost respect. To begin with, Muslim women have the right to choose her husband. The Taliban's version of Sharia Law does not represent real Islamic law. Islamic law is stern on consent. For a marriage to be Islamically legal, the woman must consent. Chapter 4, verse 19 of the Holy Quran explicitly forbids anyone to inherit women against their will and continues to command that they be treated with kindness and not harshly. Islam clearly mandates that women cannot be coerced into marriage. Reports are circulating and trending on social media that Afghan women are being forced to abandon their schooling and quit their jobs.

Continued on Page 27...



Bro. Al Mustapha

Advice From The Imam Of The Haram In Mecca

By Bro. Al Mustapha

Long but each point is precious diamond. Forward far and wide

1. Surround yourself with Believers/Muslims who practice the Deen. They are your True Friends in this Life and in the Hereafter.
2. Not everybody is out there to judge you, there are some who want the best for you and want to help you get into Al-Jannah....value them.
3. Indeed, a friend who doesn't care about your Aakhirâh/afterlife/Paradise, is not really your friend.
4. Sometimes the hardest person for you to correct is yourself. There is no shame in being wrong, the shame is in choosing to stay on the wrong path.
5. Whatever takes you NEAR to God Almighty/Allah, takes you AWAY from Hellfire. Whatever takes you AWAY from Allah, takes you CLOSER to Hellfire.
6. We all take tomorrow for granted because we believe tomorrow will always be there. And Tomorrow may be there, but we may not!
7. Who said "TOMORROW" is guaranteed? Make the use of "TODAY" ...that which you are blessed with!
8. Yesterday many thought that they would see today, and today many will think they will see tomorrow.
9. Death could be tonight, the next hour, the next second, yet we live as if we still have many years to live.
10. You may be rich, famous or have a high status in this dunyah, but to the Angel of Death, we're re just another name on the list.
11. Our death and meeting with our Creator is approaching and yet our biggest worry is what are we going to wear tomorrow? #incompetition!
12. One day you'll just be a memory for people, and a lesson to others. Do everything you can to please Allah, be a positive lesson for others.
13. Just imagine how many people were here with us last year, but are no longer here again! Even our turn is approaching. May Allah The Almighty forgive us and forgive them...and have mercy on us all!

■ *Continued on Page 28...*



Sis. Amanda Smith

ACCEPT THE BLESSINGS OF ALLAH SWT

By Sister Amanda Smith
Miami, Florida

For a year and a half, the world has struggled in the fight against covid-19. We have suffered the loss of loved ones, endured economic hardship, and grappled with major changes in our daily lives. Many people have been infected with the virus themselves. For some, the symptoms were mild, but others have experienced long-term health consequences. In every home across the globe there is the desire to gain control over this virus, and Allah SWT, through his mercy and wisdom, has given us that opportunity, if only we would reach out and take it. We have vaccines. In this age, humankind has been blessed with more knowledge on disease and medicine than ever before. All knowledge is with Allah SWT, and all knowledge that human beings have is given to us by Allah SWT only. It may come to us through a variety of means, such as through research, but the knowledge human beings have is a gift from Allah SWT. Though this pandemic has brought many challenges, it has not caused the level of devastation seen in other pandemics such as the black plague, because in this era, we have been blessed with knowledge about how disease works and how to combat it. We should reach out and accept this gift. Of all the means of combating disease we now have, one of the most powerful and most effective is vaccines. Vaccines have successfully eradicated diseases and made the transmission of others more manageable. Vaccines have been proven to be a safe and effective means to combat many illnesses, not only covid-19. Parents no longer have to fear that their children may die from polio or the measles. People no longer have to suffer the pain of tetanus or rabies. All it costs is a brief prick of a needle, but unfortunately out of fear or ignorance many are turning away from this blessing from Allah SWT. In the Holy Quran, Allah SWT tells us that “Surely God does not change what is with a people until they change themselves.” Though all of us may be making duas for this era of hardship to end, if we refuse to accept the means that Allah SWT has already provided for us, there will be no change. We cannot simply sit and make dua for Allah SWT to lift us up, but then refuse to stand. We should all accept this blessing from Allah SWT and get vaccinated, because if we sit and do nothing for ourselves, then Allah SWT will change nothing for us. We should all get vaccinated, not only for ourselves, but for others too. Islam is not an “all about me” religion. Our faith is one that calls us to be involved in society and to do our part to make the world a better place. Even if one is unlikely to die or become hospitalized from covid-19, getting vaccinated reduces the chance that you will spread the illness to others. By getting vaccinated, you are doing your part to protect the most vulnerable people in society, people whom Allah SWT has specifically asked us to care for, the elderly, the sick, and, with this new variant, the children. If you have elderly parents, fulfill your duty to your parents by getting vaccinated. If you have children, fulfill your responsibility to care for them by getting vaccinated. If you are truly a mu'min, fulfill your responsibility to Allah SWT to care for society and get vaccinated.



Linda Kaplan, Esq.

IMMIGRATION CORNER

Adjustment of Status Employment Authorization Documents and Processing Delays

By Linda Kaplan, Esq. / Florida USA

One of the biggest problems that immigration clients have experienced over the last 4 years has been increasingly long processing delays. The pandemic certainly exacerbated this, but the problems existed pre-pandemic. When a person applies for permanent resident status (green card) in the U.S., the application is called Adjustment of Status (AOS). This often is filed when a U.S. citizen marries a foreign national. A person can also apply for AOS based on a petition approved by a U.S. employer after the Department of Labor has certified that no U.S. workers are available for the position. The current processing times for an AOS application being handled by the Miami Field Office is 12.5 to 40 months. The Kendall field office is showing processing times of 11 to 23 months. A person is assigned to the office according to their home address.

When a person files for AOS, it is usual to also apply for work authorization (EAD) so that the applicant can obtain a social security number and work before the AOS is approved. Until a few days ago, the EAD's were issued for one year. With processing times for the AOS taking more than one year, it has been necessary to apply for extension of the EAD while the AOS was pending. This created problems for many people and many employers. In 2020 USCIS received nearly 370,000 adjustment related EAD requests and had to process extensions of the EAD for most all AOS applicants. Within the last few days, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) updated their policy to increase the one-year validity of the EAD to two years. This means that USCIS has over 350,000 fewer EAD application to process which frees their staff to handle other matters. This should reduce the processing delays for many people including, but not limited to, AOS applicants.

There is still much improvement needed but this is an important step in the right direction.





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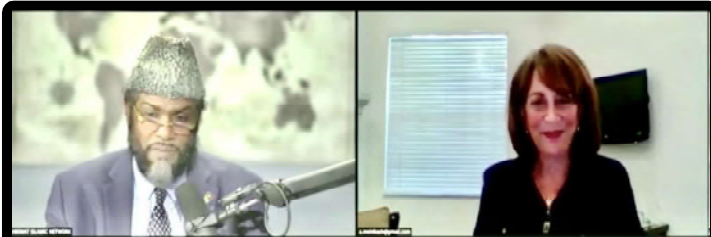
By: Faria Mohammed



Photo on left:
Al-Hamdulillaah
IFSF
Islamic Foundation
of South Florida,
invited Shaikh
Shafayat to deliver
the Khutbah on July
23rd 2021.
Maasha Allaah



Photo on left:
Al-Hamdulillaah
ARRAYYAAN
Islamic Academy
Florida Usa,
invited Shaikh
Shafayat to deliver
the Jumuah
Khutbah on
Sept.17th 2021.
Maasha Allaah



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Photo Above: Alhamdulillah Panel discussion on
Religion and science with a Rabbi; a Baha'i , A Pastor and
Shaikh Shafayat at Santaluces community high school in
Lantana Florida on September 16th 2021
Maa Shaa Allaah

Photo Below: ICNA Relief Resource Center in Pompano,Florida, Grand Opening on August 22, 2021



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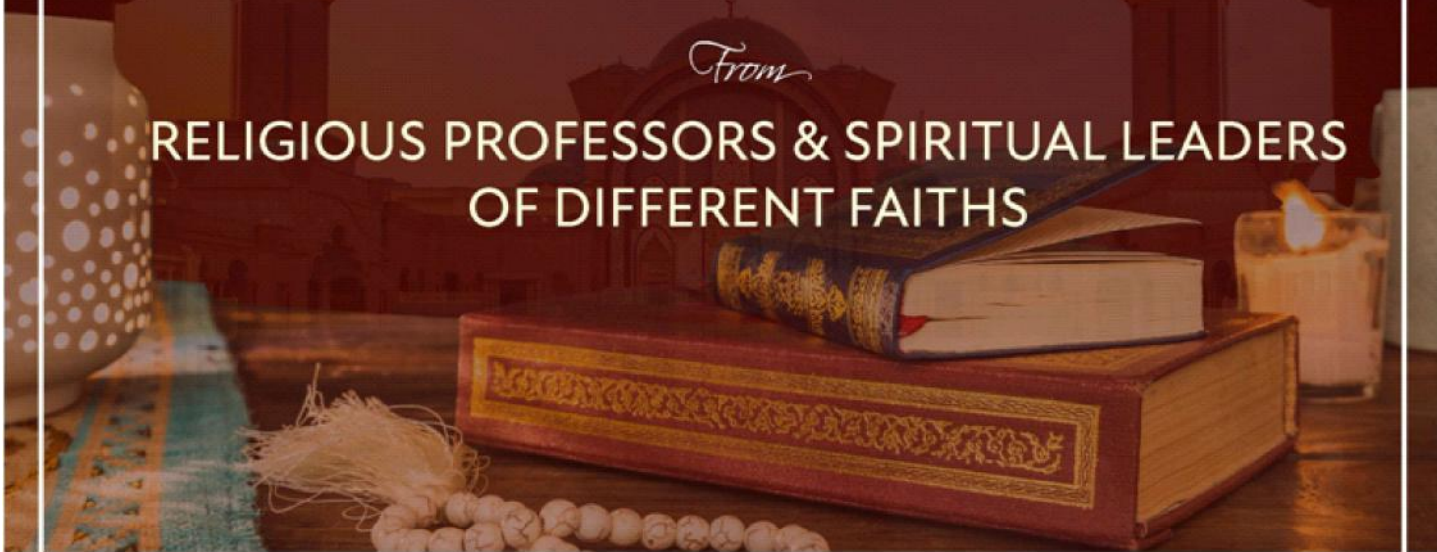
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DAWAH / INTERFAITH/ COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS By: Faria Mohammed



Photo Above:
Great evening with Charlie Crist United States Representative Former Governor of Florida. Thanks To Khalid Mirza & Diana Mirza for hosting wonderful dinner at there home on Sept. 19th, 2021



Photo Above: Free Backpack Distribution at Franklin Park/ Masjid Al Iman sponsored on Sunday Aug 15th,2021 by SunTrust Bank, Friends Of Humanity and ICNA Relief



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Photo below: Al-Hamdulillaah Madinatul Uloom Institute Florida USA Graduation & Jalsa on Sat. Aug. 21st 2021 was successful. They had a good attendance. Students did a wonderful presentation and a tremendous support from the community Mashaa Allaah





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...Continued from Page 17

Islam Loves & Respect Women Extremism Doesn't Learn The Difference

If you were to really read on the teachings and history of Islam, these demands from the Taliban are not Islamic in nature. They are cruel and extremist. In fact, Fatima al-Fihri, a Muslim woman, founded one of the worlds first known universities, the University of al-Qarawiyyin in Fez, Morocco. Education for both men and women is promoted in Islam. The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) championed equal access to education saying, "The pursuit of knowledge is a duty of every Muslim, man and woman." Together with his wife, a wealthy businesswoman, Khadija (RA), they stood up against the mistreatment of women, advocating for their respect, right to own property, run businesses like Khadija (RA) herself did, and to have a say in politics. Khadija (RA) was a phenomenal, independent and strong woman. The Prophet (SAW) loved Khadija (RA) with all his being and never attempted to silence her or stop her from being extraordinary. As if that isn't enough evidence, The Prophet (SAW) also ensured that his own daughter was highly educated and always respected. The Prophet's third wife, Aisha (RA), was a brilliant scholar and jurist. She is the Mother of Believers, as she paved the way for Islamic education and scholarship. It is because of her, her studies and her recordings of the Prophet's (SAW) communications that we have so much Islamic scholarship today. As Muslims, our beliefs, commands and rules come from the Holy Quran as well as the teachings, sayings and actions of the Prophet (SAW). Women are beloved, admired, recognised, celebrated and well-regarded in Islam. The Prophet's (SAW) wives were powerful women; women who were allowed to work and seek education. They were highly respected and they supported other women who would often go to them for advice and guidance. All the women in the Prophet's life received his love, appreciation and esteem. The first lesson as a young Muslim girl I learnt growing up was that the Prophet (SAW) said "Heaven lies under the feet of your mother," reminding me that the woman most important in this world, the woman that has earned the most respect and love, is my mother. It baffles me that Islam is mostly known for "oppression" when I know the teachings of Islam to have always focused on treating women equally. I have admired these eloquent and influential women who were at the Prophet's (SAW) side my entire life. Should we ask a random person living in the Western or European world to describe a Muslim woman, there is a high probability they'll describe her as covered from head to toe, or they'll probably speak about the many rights she lacks. Honestly, when I post on TikTok and Instagram proudly identifying as Muslim without wearing a hijab, I attract many comments about being a "fake Muslim." The non-Muslims only know what they see in the media and the movies, but nothing about the reality of my religion. It is disgusting that I have also been subject to bomb and Taliban "jokes" just because my name is Khan. Sadly, I feel I cannot blame these folks entirely for their prejudice as tragedies like the Taliban take over of Afghanistan is almost always exploited to breed Islamophobic tropes. We must focus on the real issues at stake, like calling for expanding asylum programmes and more political pressure on the Taliban.

Continued on Page 37.



Br. Hamzad

RECITING THE KALIMAH IS BENEFICIAL

By : Bro Hamzad Mohammed,
T.T.U.T.A. Teacher of the Year 2013,
Trinidad, W.I.

Laillahailallah (There is no God but Allah) is the Kalimah uttered by Muslims throughout the world. The Kalimah is seen as the a) root of Islam b) basis of Islam or c) the central axis of the entire universe. With this concept of the Kalimah, significant virtues can be derived from it, some of which I'll enunciate.

- 1) The world would not see Qayamah (Day of Judgement) until there's a person on earth who recites the Kalimah.
 - 2) Anyone who recites the Kalimah with sincerity will gain more than any other person.
 - 3) Whoever recites the Kalimah with sincerity will enter Jannah (Heaven).
 - 4) A person who recites the Kalimah is guaranteed Jannah once that person is not engrossed with this world.
 - 5) Renew your faith from time to time by reciting the Kalimah copiously.
 - 6) Whoever utters the Kalimah 100 times daily, will rise on the Day of Qayamah (Day of Judgement) with a face shining as the full moon.
 - 7) If a person dies after reciting the Kalimah, there's the sure promise of Jannah for that individual.
 - 8) Any person who dies reciting the Kalimah, will be forgiven by Almighty Allah.
 - 9) No act excels the utterance of the Kalimah, and no sin remains by it.
 - 10) Whoever recites the Kalimah whether it be day or night, that person's evil deeds will be replaced by righteous ones.
 - 11) Don't relent in reciting the Kalimah abundantly before there comes a time that you are unable to do so.
 - 12) Confessing to the Kalimah is to hold the keys to Paradise.
 - 13) A person who recites the Kalimah with sincerity of heart and dies in the same state, will be protected from Jahannam (Hell).
 - 14) The person who says the Kalimah will be immune from the suffering in the grave and
 - 15) That individual who utters the Kalimah will have neither anxiety at the time of death nor on burial in the qabr (grave).
- Will now end with a few poetic verses.**
Reciting the Kalimah plentifully,
Is a key for each Jannah's gate,
But must say it with sincerity,
Else for us all a delayed wait.



Continued from Page 17...

Advice From The Imam Of The Haram in Mecca

By Bro. Al Mustapha

14. We walk with our heads high up in the sky, unaware that one day we'll be trapped 6' Feet under the ground.

15. You look for the latest fashion and designer clothes, but don't forget O' Son of Adam! You will end up being wrapped up in just a white shroud...in which you will be buried

16. Live to please the Creator, not the creation. If Allah God Almighty is happy with us, what more can we ask for?

17. It's sad how we only begin to appreciate blessings, either materialistic things or good people; ONLY after we lose them. When it's too late!? Do we really invest or try to be like those people?

18. You wouldn't throw away a diamond to pick up a rock, so in the same way, don't throw away the Aakhirah (Paradise) by chasing the Dunya (this world)

19. How do you expect to get Al-Jannah (paradise) when you haven't worked for it in the world/Dunya? That's like expecting to pass an exam you never took a class for.

20. We live in a time where people leave out food in fear of becoming overweight, but cannot leave out sins in fear of displeasing Allah! We can certainly do better!

21. For a believer: you may be penniless, homeless, unemployed, sick and feel like you have nothing. But you have the One thing that money can't buy: "Allah" SWT! God Almighty!

22. Allāh knows what you want, what you need, what you deserve, and at what time & what place, trust Him & His decisions (His decisions are the best for HIS creation), He knows while we don't!

23. If a kaafir celebrity mentioned your name to the world, how happy would you be? Mention ALLAH SWT in a gathering, and He mentions you to the angels!

24. Make the Qur'an your companion and a part of your life. Do not let urself become a stranger to it. The Qur'an is like a friend, the longer the friendship lasts the more you will know of its secrets!

25. Don't praise me because I'm on my Deen, but pray for me because I have faults which you have not seen. Repent****My friends!

"Truly, Allah loves those who repent (the prodigal son), and He loves those who cleanse themselves." [Al-Quran 2:222]. May Allah purify our hearts. And peace and blessings of Allah be upon our noble Messenger of Allah, Muhammad SAW and his household, Ameen!

***Please visit, like and share my new FB Dawa Page: "The Muslim Neighbor". Help share the Message of Islam!



Youth Corner

Knowledge In The Age Of Intelligence

By Bro. Basit Hasan



Br. Basit Hasan

As one looks across the globe, human accomplishments are evident like neverseen in history. Ordinary citizens flying into space, albeit only for the wealthy. Beautiful, magnificent skyscrapers reaching the lowest heavens, many standing over 2,000 feet tall. Robots and Artificial Intelligence processing information and performing tasks more efficiently than humans. Communicationreaching millions LIVE every second as opposed to a hand-craftedletter,taken by mule, sea, and foot, reaching its destination in weeks and months, read, and revered by the one who receives it. Computers in your hand that read your book for you. Planes that can reach the other side of the world in less than one day. Satellites that can track the movement of everyone on Earth. How far have we come OR how come we are so far?Countlessinstitutions of higher learningexist, yet the higher we learn, the less we know about our existence, for knowing brings benefit to those around you and everything else is vanity. Technical advances have granted more humans with access to water, food, electricity, communications, and healthcare. Yet, according to the CDC, the avg person in the U.S. uses 156 gallons of water per day, whereas in India, the average person uses 38 gallons/day and in Mali, 3 gallons/day. We profit from bottled water, yet 'women and girls in sub-Saharan Africa spend 40 billion hours a year collecting water' according to UNICEF. The disparity in access to necessities, in lieu of such technical advancements around the world, displays our selfish motivations even in the pursuit of advancements. Knowledge requires seeking and seeking requires motivation and motivation requires intention. What are our motives?What intention have we made to seek knowledge? Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) made dua'a (supplication), "Oh Allah, I seek refuge(protection) from knowledge that does not benefit". Knowledge draws a person near to Allah, it is the real sign of intelligence. Knowledge humbles oneself, recognizing our impact and success is only from Allah. Rather than wasting time praising oneself (Instagram), the person becomes occupied with praising his other Creator. He disappears from the terrestrial and appears only for the celestial. 'Likes, Shares and Retweets' become insignificant unless one gives significance to them. The more a person watches others, the less they watch themselves, leading to arrogant intelligence, AI.Allah (God) says in the Quran in 2:235, "... And know that Allah knows what is within yourselves, so be conscious of Him. And know that Allah is All-Forgiving and Forbearing."Have we made our intention to please Allah (God). In the age of intelligence, mankind competes for superiority in the world, abandoning the pursuit of the greater reward in the next world. One should renew his intention to please Allah (God) in connection with any knowledge he wishes to attain, thereby bringing benefit to himself, his family and all of mankind. ■



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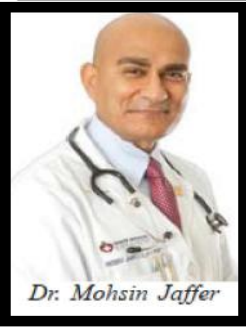
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Dr. Mohsin Jaffer

HEALTH
DEHYDRATION
IN
THE ELDERLY

By Dr. Mohsin Jaffer

Dehydration is the most common fluid and electrolyte disturbance among the elderly population. Many unnecessary hospitalizations are associated with dehydration and the consequences can be detrimental. The elderly are especially at risk due to many physiological changes associated with age, medications such as diuretics, and other chronic diseases. Diarrhea, blood loss, and excessive sweating can also increase water loss. Staying hydrated, especially in Florida's hot summer weather where the temperatures can reach close to 100 degrees, is the key to prevention. The body is composed of 70% water. Dehydration, or negative water balance, occurs when more water is lost than is retained. Negative water balance results in a decrease in all secretions. This "drying out" of tissues and organs, including muscles and joints, may also lead to premature aging. Severe dehydration can cause decreased level of consciousness, weak/rapid pulse, low blood pressure, convulsions, and other symptoms. All of which can be life threatening.

Causes of dehydration.

The primary cause of dehydration in the older adult is inadequate water intake. As we age, our body becomes less aware of thirst. Our bodies feel thirst less keenly and our ability to be aware of thirst becomes blunted. This increases the chances of consuming less water and consequently suffering from dehydration. Another cause of dehydration in the elderly is decrease muscle mass. Muscle contains more water than fat and after age 60 our muscle/fat proportion decreases by 50%. Our kidney function also decreases as we age. This means the kidneys become less efficient in removing toxins, retaining water, and concentrating urine. This means the kidneys become less efficient in removing toxins, retaining water, and concentrating urine. Also, chronic conditions such as uncontrolled hypertension and diabetes cause damage to the kidneys. That is why it is so important to maintain diabetes and blood pressure control. Recognize the symptoms. It is important to recognize the symptoms of being dehydrated. Mild dehydration will cause dryness of the mouth, dry tongue, and thick saliva. You may be unable to urinate or have a small amount of urine. You may also have cramping of the limbs, headache, weakness, fatigue, and irritability.

Tips to staying hydrated.

- Drink five 8 oz glasses of water per day (1 bottled water = 16oz). A good formula you can use is to drink one-third your body weight. For example, a 150 lbs. person should drink about 50 oz of water a day (or about six 8 oz glasses).
- Have water by your side at all times.
- Don't wait until you're thirsty. The thirst sensation means the body is already dehydrated. Remember thirst gets blunted as we age!
- Sports drinks can be helpful for a quick replenishment of fluid and electrolytes, but be careful of the added sugars.
- Your urine should be close to clear. Dark concentrated urine can be a sign of dehydration.
- Severe dehydration requires medical attention. If you see signs or suspect severe dehydration, call your doctor.



By Dr. Hye

The Life
Of
Imam Bukhari


Submitted by Dr. Addul Hye

Brief Life History:


1. Born in Bukhara/Uzbekistan in 810 CE, died in Samarkand in 870 CE, lived 60 years.
2. Father died earlier; became blind around the age 4-5 years. After Mother's persistent and intense dua for months, Allah gave his eyesight back.
3. Travelled to Makkah for Hajj with brother and mother, stayed several years in Makkah and Madina and met many scholars. Allah gave him excellent memory to memorize and describe long and complex variations of hadith narrations. He also stayed in Baghdad.
4. He started collection of Hadith at the age of 18. Muslim ruler evicted him from Bukhara for refusing to teach Hadith to his children at the royal palace instead of his Madrasha.
5. Collected over 600,000 hadith in lifetime. Compiled Sahih Al-Bukhari with 7263 hadith.
6. Over 90,000 including Imam Muslim and Tirmidhi learned hadith directly from him.
7. Most of his life he was on travel on hadith collection, verification. He wrote many books.
8. Many times, he was on low profile for hadith work and did not confront his critics.
9. He stayed with Imam Muslim few years in Nishapur/Iran and continued work on hadith.
10. He died near Samarkand in a village with one student present.
11. Most of his work was preserved and followed by Imam Muslim and many other scholars.

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Continued from Page 10...

Life, Death & The Hereafter

The Unseen (Ghaib):

What is imperceptible to our eyes and ears and undetectable by our scientific instruments, the Hubble telescope and what is inconceivable by the regions of our brain fall in a realm, which, in the Qur'anic language is called *Ilm-al-ghaib* (knowledge of the unseen) Belief in the unseen is a fundamental tenet of Islam. The Qur'an declares in the very beginning:

"This is the book in which there is no doubt, a guide for the God-fearing, those who believe in the unseen, establish prayer and spend of what we have provided them with."(Ch.2)

Ghaib means something that cannot be perceived by man howsoever he tries, for instance, the reality of God and the times and places of death. This also means that one must reject the notion that what cannot be seen does not exist. This is the contention of the naturalists, which our faith categorically rejects. Humans live in a very small world of their perception and knowledge. There is an infinite amount of reality beyond the scope of our knowledge. Apart from perception, imagination and speculation, there is another property of our brain, which is called rationalization. Rationalization is essential for our survival. For instance, driving at a speed of one hundred miles an hour may cause us to lose control and have a fatal accident, so we slow down. This is rationalization. Hearing a smoke alarm, we rationalize that there may be a fire and we take necessary action. However, there are many things we cannot understand, cannot assign the causes and cannot speculate their effects. They are beyond the scope of our rational thinking. There is a death in the family. A young child dies, leaving the old, the mother, the father and the grandparents behind. Why should the young die, leaving the old to

linger? Who can give a rational answer? Which branch of science can explain this? Science can often answer the question: how, the death caused by malaria, typhoid and so on but can it answer the question why? The answer does not lie in science but in the concept of Ghaib. You are driving along on a road, whistling and listening to music, oblivious of what is ahead of you. Suddenly, you make a stupid mistake, causing a near fatal accident but you escape death by the skin of your teeth. You remember that days ago, a friend of yours, a very cautious driver, had got into an accident for no fault of his, hit by a drunk driver and was killed. Why was it that he should die and you survive? What is the rationale? There is none. The answer belongs in the realm of Ghaib. What is life? It is the manifestation of order in elements. What is death? It is the scattering of the very same elements. Human life is the coming together of some elements in a unique order and harmony and the death is the reversal of that process. Life is order and death is disorder. Our bodies are composed of water, some elements like calcium, magnesium and phosphorous supplied by earth; carbon, supplied by carbon dioxide, a component of air, all compounded into biological matter as energy from the sun (fire) is added. So, they were not far off who said that we were made of water, dust, air and fire. When we die, our bodies disintegrate and revert back to these basic elements, dust-to-dust, water to water and air to air! *"It is He, who brings out the living from the dead and brings out the dead from the living and who gives life to the earth after it is dead and thus shall you be brought out."* And also: *"From the earth did we create you and into it shall we return you. And from it shall we bring you out once again."*

Rooh (Spirit)

Mechanical mixing of elements does not create life. What makes life happen is another mysterious element, which we call

Continued on Page 42...

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Islam Loves & Respect Women Extremism Doesn't Learn The Difference

Instead, too many people are weaponising the instability and adversity in this war-torn country to score political points against Muslim citizens. Women in pre-Islam Arabia were highly mistreated and had zero rights. It was the Prophet (SAW) and his wives (RA) that improved and bettered the lives of women. Feminism in the days of the Prophet (SAW) may not have existed, but the barriers to women's equality that He opposed in the 7th century seems all too similar to the ones we 21st-century feminists are fighting against today. Both the Taliban and the French Government are using religion as their basis to place demands on Muslim women. But it is extremism that is taking away our right to free choice, not Islam. Islam loves women, extremism doesn't. Learn the difference. I am a Muslim woman, I am a feminist and I stand with all Muslim women supporting their choices whether it is to wear hijab or not, pursue studies and/or find a place in the working world. Notes: The abbreviated SAW salutation after mentioning the Prophet in Arabic stands for Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam which translates to Peace Be Upon Him. The abbreviated RA salutation after mentioning the family of the Prophet (SAW) stands for Radhi Allah Anhu which translates to May Allah Be Pleased with Him/Her. As Muslims, we used these salutations as a form of respect and ask God to bless them.



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Written by: Bro. Azad Ali Chairman of Darul Uloom Institute, Florida



Bro. Azad Ali

A CERTAIN PLACE

By. Bro. Azad Ali

*Is there a place for all of us
To live in love and peace,
When we have turned into that dust*

*A place where love shall never cease.....
There's a place told long ago
A place within a chosen path,
Change not whichever way the winds blow
A place for us to avoid His wrath.....
There's a place within thy heart
Just stay the course and believe,
Stay not aloof and you'd find that path
A CERTAIN PLACE where none shall leave.....
Many have come to show that way
To that place of love and salvation,
A CERTAIN PLACE where pure hearts shall stay
A CERTAIN PLACE they all called HEAVEN.....*

HUMOR

**The Preacher
&
The Peanuts**

A preacher visits an elderly woman from his congregation. As he sits on the couch, he notices a large bowl of peanuts on the coffee table. "Mind if I have a few?" he asks. "No, not at all!" the woman replied. They chat for an hour and, as the preacher stands to leave, he realizes that instead of eating just a few peanuts, he emptied most of the bowl. "I'm terribly sorry for eating all your peanuts. I really just meant to eat a few." "Oh, that's all right," the woman says. "Ever since I lost my teeth, all I can do is suck the chocolate off them."



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Photo Above: Al-Hamdulillaah Congratulations to Aimeé and Muhammad. They got married on August 8, 2021 in Pakistan. May Allah bless them.

Maashaa Allaah

**Congratulations To
Safiyah Durgana
&
Azad Nizamudin**



Photo Above: Al-Hamdulillah, they have been blessed with a baby boy Aahil Asaad Nizamudin on August 5th, 2021 .

Maashaa Allaah

Continued from Page 35...

Continued from Page 10 ...

Life, Death & The Hereafter

Rooh (spirit) but is the Rooh a common element like air and dust? The answer is no, because water can go back to water, air can mix with air and dust can return to dust but Rooh cannot merge with a common pool of Arwah (spirits). It had made an individual different from any other individual that had ever existed but we do not know its nature. The knowledge of it belongs in the realm of Ghaib. The Qur'an says; "And they ask you about spirit. Say: The spirit is in the realm of my Lord. Of the knowledge, only a little is communicated to you." Creation and resurrection are both in the form of body and soul. Life cannot be sustained without the soul. A living body cannot decompose as long as the body functions are active. You can take a powerful hypnotic drug and sleep for seven days, your flesh will not decompose; only a dead body disintegrates into its elements. The elements go back to their respective pools and the individual ceases to exist on the worldly plain.

Akhirah (Hereafter)

Let us now move to another tenet of our beliefs: *Iman bil-akhirah* (belief in the Hereafter). The Qur'an describes the God-fearing (*Muttaqoon*) in the verses already quoted earlier, as those who, among other things, have a firm belief in the Hereafter.

Life after death and the concept of reward and punishment, not only have a spiritual dimension but have an important sociological dimension too. There are two factors, which play a part in a society's survival: legality and morality. Legality can be administered and enforced — although not completely — by the government machinery, consisting of a police force and a court system. Fear of punishment is a very important deterrent in enforcing legality. However, morality is something, which cannot be enforced by legislative and legal means. Secular societies only lightly recommend it. Greed can very easily strangle morality. These people do not care about the sick, the poor and the vulnerable. All the laws of the land favor them. No law will ever be written to stop them from devouring mankind's resources. There will be no patriot act against them and no Guantanamo Bay will ever be awaiting their arrival. What a difference it would have made if these people had a touch of conscience and belief in the Hereafter!

Another argument, which supports the validity of the concept of Akhirah, is belief in **Divine Justice**. When you see people, who are corrupt to the core, doing well in this world, living in luxury, without any apparent difficulties and discomforts, while some others, every bit virtuous, suffering all kinds of calamities: you ask: where is justice? The answer is simple. Divine Justice is never far away. One of the most important attributes of Allaah is *Adl* (justice).

We must understand that our life on this earth is only one phase of our spiritual existence. Each individual has his/her share of comfort and discomfort, grief and happiness, pain and pleasure. If it appears that one has a longer span of misfortune in this life, Allaah's justice requires that it must be compensated for on a different plane of existence. It can only happen if there is life after death.

FROM BANK OF AMERICA TO THE BANK ALAKHIRAH

When you visit a foreign country, you transfer some money to a bank in that country. So that you have enough money to spend in the local currency when you arrive there. The same way you have to transfer your funds to the place where you are going. The rich man said I have my account in the Bank of America. Where do I transfer the funds? The poor man replied it is called the Bank Al-Akhirah. You have to open an account in it and then transfer funds from Bank of America to Bank Al-Akhirah. The rich man said that he never heard of this new bank. Does it have any branch in this city? The poor man replied, it has branches all over the world, in every city and on every street corner. The rich man was dying with joy. He insisted that the poor man take him right now to the nearest branch. He agreed and they both left. They went into the poor neighborhood of the city. Narrow alleys with lots of potholes and trash everywhere. Walls are painted with gangster slogans and men sitting outside the houses drinking. A police car with loud siren zipped by. They even heard couple of gunshots in broad daylight. Finally, they stopped at a worn-down building with a small sign that was barely readable. It says some kind of orphanage. The rich man was not pleased. You promised me to take to the Bank Al-Akhirah. This looks like an orphanage. The poor man told him that this the Bank. Go inside and open your account and make the first deposit. With hesitation, they entered the building. A man was dozing behind a desk in a small room. He woke up and greeted them. The rich businessman asked them what is the rate of return? The poor man replied "you will get it back seven times or more. If you deposit here \$100 today, you will receive \$700+ in your Bank Al-Akhirah account after you transit to the other life." The rich man again asked what is the assurance? Who is promising this deal? Where is the written guarantee? The poor man smiled and said that this transition of funds is backed and guaranteed by the one who created you and me. He owns the universe, the earth and the skies and everything between the two. My Lord is giving His Word to you mentioned and explained in Quran, over and over, again and again. The rich man filled out the forms and sign up for the monthly contributions. He went home with an unusual feeling of satisfaction, gratitude, and happiness. He had a peaceful and comfortable night and slept without any worries. Next morning, he created a charitable trust and start contributing to a long list of domestic and overseas charities. He informed his family about the transfer of funds and advised each of them to open their individual accounts in the Bank Al-Akhirah. His wife asked him if he took care of the poor man with financial help. He said that the day was full of excitement, and he completely forgot about it. The couple went back to the sidewalk to look for the poor man. He was not there. They searched for him for several days, but he was gone. He had accomplished his mission and was reassigned to a new project at a new location.



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