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Salaah/Prayer #LifePriority!

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Linda Kaplan, Esq.

USCIS Remains Open during the Government Shutdown

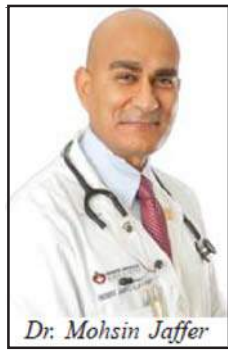
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DON'T LET HATRED cause you to be UNJUST TO PEOPLE

In ignorance, we may hate something which is good, and because of that hate, we may do wrong to others. In ignorance, we may hate a group of people. Why do you think we have so many racial issues in America? Race is not only about skin colour. In some places around the world, people refuse getting married based on their tribe and group they belong to. This is not on Qur'an and Sunnah but it operates on the idea of "I am better than you". If we have this thought in our minds, like the devil, we have a problem with our pride. We are misrepresenting to the Qur'an and Sunnah, and the Muslim Ummah. The Prophet (s.a.w.) reminded us to beware, Satan may not be able to mislead us in big things. He may not tell us not to pray or fast, but he may be able to mislead us in many small things. These, in the end, add up to big things. Let us look at our lives and see that this is happening. We are destroying our own imaan in the name of ignorance and arrogance.

The Prophet (s.a.w.) said that many people who will stand on the day of Qiyaamah, will rise bankrupt. The Sahabas asked if this was concerning wealth. It is not about wealth but rather blessings. People will lose their blessings out of arrogance and ignorance of Qur'an and sunnah, in hurting, oppressing and persecuting people. Our blessings will go to those people. In the story of Prophet Yusuf (AS), his brothers became jealous of him. What did they do? They started hating him and it lead to extremism. They attempted to kill him but Allah saved him. Many of us are unjust because we're trying to save our egos, names, and better our standings in society. We become unjust for our arrogance. Allah says in the Qur'an that truth will always prevail and we believe such as Muslims. We must ensure not to do this to other people. We'll surely have to pay in this world and the hereafter. In the story of Yusuf, he went from being the boy whom his brothers

wanted to kill, to being in a position of power in the government of the land. Allah is the one who gives power. We have so many lessons in the Qur'an on the lives of the Prophets rather than fairy tales. Coming to the point of justice, when Yusuf (AS) came into power, the land went through a famine and his brothers came to Egypt. When they came to Yusuf (AS) for grains, he recognized them but was not unjust to them. He did not kick them out and deny them support. He forgave his brothers, brought his family back together to Egypt and this is the story of the Israelites. To conclude, the Qur'an says: Surah Al-Maida (Ch 5, Vs 8) "O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm for Allah, witnesses in justice, and do not let the hatred of a people prevent you from being just. Be just; that is nearer to righteousness. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what you do." On the day of judgement, the Prophet (s.a.w.) says that the ruler who is just will be one of those who will be under the shade of Allah. Everyone is a ruler in our own worlds, in our jobs and in our families. ●



Shaikh Shafayat
Founder

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Al-Hamdulillaah- Shaikh Shafayat was born, in Trinidad, West Indies, where he attended College etc.. Due to his multi-faith and cultural upbringing, he was awarded a scholarship to become a Christian Minister. In 1975 he went to India to study Islam and became the first student from the Caribbean and North America to have graduated as an Islamic scholar from Darul Uloom Deoband, which is the largest and oldest Islamic Institute in India. He is the Founder of Al-Hikmat Services and Darul Uloom Institute Pembroke Pines Florida USA. He is the first Muslim to become President of the Interfaith Council of South Florida in the year 2002 and was also the first Muslim to represent Islam at a Florida State Faith Summit, held at the Capitol Building with Gov. Jeb Bush in the year 2000. He has received many Interfaith Awards including the Peacemaker Award from St. Thomas University. Shaikh Shafayat is well known by Muslims and Non-Muslims as a Motivational Speaker. He lectures throughout the U.S.A. and worldwide on Islam and Terrorism, Interfaith Issues and Cultural Diversity etc. MaaShaa Allaah.



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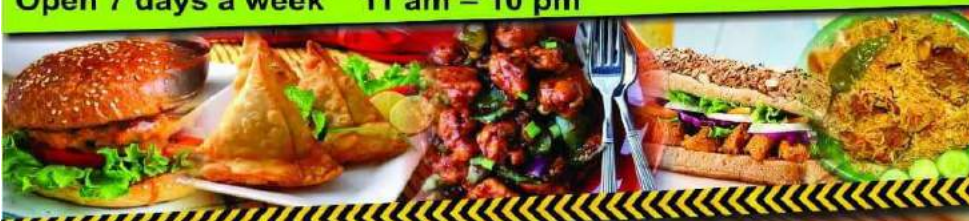
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Rev. Thomas Graf

REVEREND'S CORNER

By Rev. Thomas Graf / Professor at BC College, Florida

CALLED TO BE SERVANTS

This week we especially remember and give tribute to the tremendous ministry of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Many today question how far we, as a nation, have really progressed emulating Dr. King's message and challenge to accept, love and be "servants" one unto

another. This message is not new, it has been preached since the beginning of time. "But Yeshua called them to him and said to them, 'You know that among the Goyim those who are supposed to rule them become tyrants, and their superiors become dictators. But among you, it must not be like that! On the contrary, whoever among you wants to be a leader must be your servant; and whoever wants to be first among you must become everyone's slave! (Mark 10:42-44) Jesus gave us a new norm of greatness. If you want to be important-wonderful. If you want to be recognized-wonderful. If you want to be great-wonderful. But recognize that he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. That's a new definition of greatness...by giving that definition of greatness; it means that everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) has said, "None of you truly believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself." On February 4, 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr. preached "The Drum Major Instinct" from the pulpit of Ebenezer Baptist Church, two months before his assassination on April 4, 1968. Within that preaching, he shared the following:

**If I can help somebody as I pass along,
 If I can cheer somebody with a word or song,
 If I can show somebody he's traveling wrong,
 Then my living will not be in vain.
 If I can do my duty as a Christian ought,
 If I can bring salvation to a world once wrought,
 If I can spread the message as the master taught,
 Then my living will not be in vain.
 We all can change the world, because we all can serve.
 The opportunity is as close as your neighbor, and the rewards are everlasting.**



Dr. Ghous Muhammad

ATTORNEY CORNER

Justice © Dr. Ghous Muhammad / Karachi, Pakistan

THE JURISTIC DOCTRINES PUBLIC GOOD OR MASALAHAT AL MURSALA

This doctrine in the interest of public good was developed by Imam Malik, founder of the Maliki school. While interpreting the Shariah evidence, the Imam used to rely on the two fundamental sources of Quran

and the Sunnah. He also accepted those Traditions which he believed were authentic even though some of them carried the authority of only one narrator. He also depended upon the practice of Madina people and the sayings of the Companions. However in the absence of specific texts he had recourse to analogy and also to *Masalahat al-Mursalat* i.e. public good or public interest. The doctrine of public good in fact is identical to legal reasoning and juristic equity of the Hanafi school. It is generally accepted view that legal injunctions are designed for public interest. *Maslahah* (public interest) has been defined as one which brings good to man and averts damage from him. Technically, it stands for an interest which protects the end and fulfills the purpose of the law. The law aims at the protection of the five basic rights of men, namely to protect their religion, life, sanity, generation and property. Anything which ensures the protection of these rights is called *Maslahah* (Public good) and anything which divests man of these rights is called *mafsadah* (public damage). And to ward off this damage is again called *maslahah*. Public interest falls into three categories, necessities, needs and superfluities. Therefore rights of men fall under the category of necessities. The punishment for an unbeliever who leads others astray and for a heretic who invites others to heresy is intended to protect the faith of the people. Retaliation is meant to protect the life of the people. The punishment for drinking is designed to protect sanity on which rests the legal obligation. The *hadd* punishment for adultery aims at the protection of the generation and parentage of men. The punishment for theft and usurpation is intended to protect the property.

To be continued in the next issue, InShaa Allaah

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By: Sis. Sylmarie Mustapha / Coral Springs, Florida



Sister Sylmarie

GPS OF LIFE

- Turn to Allah (SWT), recite the Quran
- Seek forgiveness of Allah. He is Forgiving and Merciful (73:20).
- Treat non-Muslims in a kind and fair manner (60:8)
- Enjoin right, forbid wrong (31:17)
- Strive against sinful and unlawful acts (5:63)
- Avoid intoxicants and alcohol (5:90).
- Do not gamble (5:90).
- Do not insult others' deities (6:108)
- Don't reduce weight or measure to cheat people (6:152)
- Eat and Drink, But Be Not Excessive (7:31)
- Wear good clothes during prayer times (Qur'aan 7:31)
- Protect and help those who seek protection (9:6)
- Keep Purity (9:108)
- Don't consume interest (2:275)
- Do not engage in bribery (2:188)
- Do not break the promise (2:177)
- Keep the trust (2:283)
- Do not mix the truth with falsehood (2:42)
- Judge with justice between people (4:58)

Assalamu Alaikum: Dear Brother and Sisters, above are just some verses from the Quran, whereby, Allah (SWT) has indeed given us clear instructions on how to live and coexist with others in this life. Allah (SWT) in his infinite knowledge knows that without instructions, mankind cannot exist in an orderly, systemic manner. We need directions, we need instructions, and we need guidance on how to live. Allah (SWT) has provided us with instructions to follow, from the time we are born to the time of our passing. Allah (SWT) instructed us on how we should live, what to eat, how to cleanse ourselves, how to sleep, how to treat each other, work and business ethics, how to treat our parents, our neighbors, our family, our friends, our brothers and sisters in mankind. Just imagine the world without stop signs, or speed limits, or a legal system. Imagine raising children without rules. Imagine your workplace without management to control their workers. Imagine airplanes without control towers, schools without rules, stores without any rules for lining up, imagine spending money recklessly, or a world without a monetary or financial system. Well, we DO NOT have to imagine this chaos, because Allah (SWT), was so merciful to us; He set us up to personally attain a successful life and to achieve a systematic global society as well.

Continued on page 34, InShaa Allaah

CONGRATULATIONS CORNER

Congratulations

To
Shabana & Mudassir Uddin



Shabana & Mudassir

Shabana & Mudassir were recently married on Friday December 21st, 2018 at Miami Gardens Masjid, Florida USA. The Walima was held in Georgia, USA.

Congratulations

To
Adeshia & Omar Gannie



Adeshia & Omar Gannie

Adeshia and Omar were married on Saturday January 19th, 2019. The wedding was held at Long Key Nature Center, Florida USA.

Congratulations To Hafiz Danyal & Anum Habib



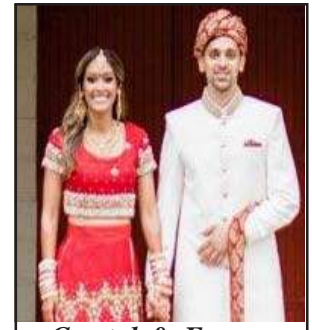
Dr. Anum & Hafiz Danyal

Hafiz Danyal and Dr. Anum were recently married on January 24th, 2019 in Hollywood Florida USA.

May Allaah (S.WT) bless them all with a successful married life, InShaa Allaah Ameen MaaShaa Allaah

Congratulations

To
Crystal & Farran Abbasi



Crystal & Farran

Farran and Crystal were married on Sunday November 11th, 2018. The wedding ceremony was held at the Bonnet House in Fort Lauderdale Florida USA. The Nikkah was performed by Shaikh Shafayat.

Congratulations

To
Amirah & Shan Azeerulla



Amirah & Shan

Amirah and Shan were married on Sat. December 22nd, 2018. The wedding was held at Signature Grand, Davie Florida USA.



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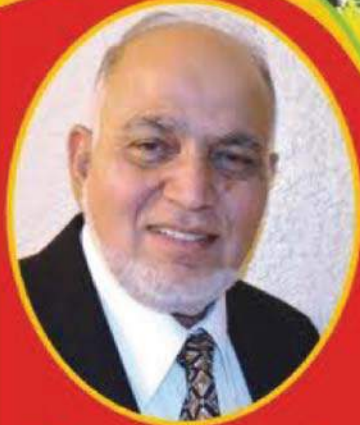
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Bro. Farooq Shafi

THE DREAM

Submitted by Bro. Farooq Shafi / Sunrise, Florida U.S.A

He was sound asleep after completing his obligatory nightly prayer. All of a sudden, he woke up perplexed. He was puzzled about what he just saw in his dream. He got up, performed wudu (ablution) and offered two rakaats nafal (voluntary prayer)

and went to bed again. After a little while, he woke up again. He had seen the same dream the second time. He performed wudu, offered his prayer and went back to sleep again. This time he woke up trembling. He had seen the same dream a third time. He immediately summoned his trusted advisor and relayed the dream to him. "The holy prophet (SAW) came in to my dreams three times. He (SAW) pointed towards two men with blue eyes and asked me to protect him (SAW) from the evil of these two men." Both of them pondered over the dream for a while and then the noble adviser suggested not to disclose the dream to anyone and to travel towards Madinah immediately to investigate. The man was Sultan Noor Uddin Zangi, the pious, God fearing ruler of Syria in the year 1162. They loaded the camels with luggage, took a few men with them and headed for Madinah in haste. They stopped only for necessities and reached Madinah in record time. The Sultan and his companions went straight to the Prophet's Masjid and offered two rakkat nafal salaah. Afterwards, he invited the entire population of the city of Madinah and distributed gifts among them all. He also announced a big feast at night and instructed "everyone" in the city of Madinah to attend. He had not seen the two men with blue eyes showed to him by the holy prophet (SAW) in his dream while distributing the gifts. The feasts began. Meanwhile, the Sultan kept a careful eye on all attendees to recognize the two men shown to him by the Holy Prophet (SAW). The feast went on but he still did not see those two men with blue eyes. He asked curiously if anyone was left out from the feasts, the crowd denied. His heart was racing. He pressed upon his inquiry again if anyone was left out. It was after his insistence he came to know about the two westerners staying close to the Prophet's masjid who had attended the feast. They had a public reputation of being celibates purely devoted to prayers at all times. They barely left their place of worship and were seen at the graveyard at times making du'aa for the buried. He immediately summoned them before him. One look and he knew they were the same as shown to him in the dream. He inquired of them about their identity and motives. They told a cunning story that they were pilgrims from the West, had come to perform hajj but the strong desire to stay close to the Holy Prophet (SAW) had kept them in Madinah.

Continued on page 34, InShaa Allaah

THE COVENANT OF THE PROPHETS

Submitted by: Bro. Twalib Ali / Whitby, Ontario, Canada

Holy Quran - Sura 3 vs. 81: When Allah (Almighty God) made His Covenant with His Prophets, He said, "Behold that which I have given you of the Scripture and knowledge; and afterwards there will come unto you a Messenger confirming that which ye possess. Ye shall believe in him and ye shall help him." He (Allah) said, "Do you agree and will ye take up My burden which I lay upon you in this matter?" They answered, "We agree." He (Allah) said, "Then bear ye witness. I will be a Witness with you." Almighty God revealed that He sent a Prophet to every nation in their own language. (Holy Quran - Sura 4 vs. 14; Sura 16 vs. 36) He also revealed in Sura 33 verse 40 of the Holy Quran, "Muhammad is not the father of any man among you, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the Prophets; and Allah is aware of all things." No one can claim any link to this prophet-hood by virtue of blood-line relationship(s). Prophet-hood is not hereditary. Every Prophet (or Messenger) preached and taught to worship ONE God (the Creator of everyone and everything in the Heavens and on earth and all in between). They gave Good News to those who would believe and warned the unbelievers of the punishment of Hell-Fire. They were given Divine Revelations as Guidance in the form of Books and many Prophets were given gifts to assist them in convincing their people. We are reminded throughout the Last Revelation (the Holy Quran) that as Believers, we are not to make any distinction amongst God's Messengers (Sura 2 vs. 285; Sura 3 vs. 84). Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is referred to as the "Unlettered Apostle" as mentioned in Sura 3 vs. 81, Sura 7 vs. 157 and 158, and a "Universal Messenger" to all Mankind - Sura 34 vs. 28. The question arises - Did Allah ever mention that His Messenger of the Last Revelation (the Quran) was the 'greatest' of all His Prophets? Nowhere is this mentioned in the Quran. He was the 'Last' Messenger and 'Seal' of all Prophets. Prophet-hood is one brother-hood. Every Prophet who was sent to their own people would be likened to a paragraph in an Essay, and Allah's Seal of all Prophets (Muhammad -peace be upon him) would be the summary of that Essay. After a lecture on Prophet-hood, I was confronted by a very devout Christian woman who said that Jesus was greater than Muhammad because he brought the dead back to life, and if there was any proof that they were equal in the sight of God. Then, I replied that after my brief explanation, she would be able to answer her own question without doubt. I mentioned that Almighty God gave special gifts to many of His Messengers to convince their people. For instance, during the time of Pharaoh, Almighty God gave the Prophet Moses 9 Signs. 'Magic' was the 'thing' of that era and Egypt's best magicians were mesmerized and put to shame when they lost to Moses (peace be upon him) in the presence of Pharaoh and his people. I asked her, "Is Moses God Almighty?" She replied, "Absolutely not!"

Continued on page 30, InShaa Allaah



Salaah/Prayer #LifePriority!

Written by Bro. Al Mustapha / Florida USA

Assalamu Alaikum.

Allah SWT tells us in the Quran 51:56, "I have not created Jinn and humans except to worship Me", and 2:238 "Guard strictly your Salaah, and

stand up with devotion to Allah". The Prophet Muhammad SAW says: Salaah was the first thing ordained by Allah and it shall be the first thing to be reckoned for on the Day of Judgement! Likely questions on that Day might include: Did we pray 5 times a day as ordered by Allah SWT? Did we even try to please our Creator by praying to Him and thanking Him for the opportunity to pray and gain His Paradise? Why not? We make time for food, work, kids, phones, fun, vacations and everything else in life, why not for prayer which will please our Creator who is the only One who gives us everything we have in life. Remember, Allah SWT doesn't need our Salaah.. we need it! He wants to see our gratitude to Him for all that He gives us every day! What is the quality of our Salaah we prayed? Did we pray because we had to or because we wanted to and with the utmost love for the One we're praying to? Did we take our time to ensure that the words of Quran we recite are pronounced correctly? Did we even know the meaning of what we recite and say in our Salaah? Did we try hard to concentrate on what we say in our Salaah? Did we constantly seek Allah's protection from satan who does everything to distract us from the remembrance of our Lord so he can steal our chance for Paradise? Did we plan for him they way he plans for us? Did we teach our children to pray and did we set the example? My friends, when we talk to others especially those in higher positions than us we understand what we're saying to them and we focus on our conversation and speak clearly with respect, sincerity and with love (if it's someone we love). So when we're communicating with our real Boss, our Creator, Protector, Provider, Cherisher of all mankind, shouldn't we do our very best to focus and be more mindful and speak with love and respect and understand at least the basics of our conversation as much as possible? We should at least learn the meaning of surah Fatiha and other surahs, Athiyat, Darood and other prayers that we recite in each position in our Salaah; that would definitely help us to understand better and have more sincerity, love and Kushoo when we converse with our Lord and Creator Allah SWT. Also, when we make Dua do we thank and ask of Allah the Almighty in our language with feelings, sincerity and focus? Unfortunately, many Muslims do not pray any of the daily obligatory Salaah! If this is the first item that we will have to account for on Judgment Day and satisfactory answers will lead to all the other questions and answers being very easy, shouldn't we ensure that if nothing else in life other than our belief in Allah God Almighty alone as our Creator and Prophet Muhammad SAW as His messenger, shouldn't we ensure that we're at least doing EVERYTHING in our power to pray our daily Salaah so we have good answers on Judgment Day?

Continued on Page 26, InShaa Allaah



BOOK REVIEWS BY Mr. Gary S. Roen

Winterhaven, Orlando Florida USA

Mr. Gary is an author, nationally syndicated book critic/writer, consultant has been writing close to 45 years.

A Delicate Touch

By Stuart Woods / Putnam

c/o Penguin Group USA

375 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014

www.penguin.com

Stone Barrington is back and this time it begins as a simple case where he is asked to find someone to open a safe for a client. Simple enough but there are many complications as the contents are revealed that also involve his best friend Dino. "A Delicate Touch is another surefire mix of rapid pacing with well fleshed out characters who enter the realm of Stone's world. Woods keeps the pages turning with a complicated plot that concludes with a fantastic ending. "A Delicate Touch" is guaranteed to please Woods many fans.

Law Of The Gun

Edited by Martin H. Greenburg and Russell Davis

Kensington Publishing Corp

119 West 40 th Street , New York , NY 10018

www.kensingtonbooks.com

Westerns have always been great entertainment in the movies and TV shows but they are also fantastic reading as short fiction as well in "Law Of The Gun." Some of the most popular western genre writers are gathered together in a first-class series of tales of the old west. Among the authors are John Jakes, Jory Sherman, William W. Johnstone, Loren D. Estleman and Andrew J. Fenaday along with 12 other masters of the old west tale. The tales are fast paced with guns a blazing of a long time ago. "Law Of The Gun" is the third installment of a series that includes "Ghost Towns," and "Lost Tales" that are great cowboy tales of excitement

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Bro. Taj Siddiqui

CAN YOU HEAR THE SCREAMS OF YOUR SISTER?

SHE IS CALLING ON YOU AND ME.

WHERE ARE HER SPINELEES AND SHAMELESS MUSLIM BROTHERS?

*Compiled and submitted by Taj Siddiqui / Contributions by Brother Javed Qureshi and Imam Amo Jaffar
Material in this article is also adopted from a report by Shashank Bengali, Ukhia, Bangla Desh, June 2018*

When she sees the boy lying in her arms, she relives a nightmare. He is an innocent reminder of the day last year when soldiers burst into her village in western Myanmar's Rakhine state and chased her into a rice paddy. There, she said, two men in army uniforms raped her and left her bleeding in the dirt. Uma Suleiman said that soldiers, recognizable in their green uniforms with red patches, stormed the village one afternoon, scattering residents into the surrounding fields. When two soldiers caught up to her and drew a knife, no one was around to hear her cries. Villagers didn't find her until after nightfall. Another victim Majida Begum, 23, said she was raped by soldiers in the woods outside her village in August. Fatima, 25, said she was gang-raped by a half-dozen soldiers last June in Maungdaw district. During a recent visit to the refugee camp, one woman told the Imam of Muttaqeen Masjid that her daughter was raped in front of her family by 20 soldiers. They killed her entire family and burned her daughter alive.

These victims are among the thousands of Rohingya Muslims who were sexually assaulted during a systematic campaign of brutality by Myanmar security forces that international investigators and human rights groups have described as crimes against humanity. Sexual violence has been a devastating hallmark of Myanmar's long persecution of the Rohingya, forced by the Buddhist majority to live under an apartheid system in their native land. In the overcrowded refugee camps in Bangladesh where more than 900,000 Rohingya have sought shelter — many having watched their homes burned, children mutilated, and family members shot — the mass rapes have produced untold numbers of unwanted pregnancies and confronted survivors with terrible choice.

Tucked away in the shadows of her family's bamboo shelter, the girl hid from the world. She was 13, and she was petrified. Two months earlier, soldiers had broken into her home back in Myanmar and raped her, an attack that drove her and her terrified family over the border to Bangladesh. Ever since, she had waited for her period to arrive. Gradually, she came to realize that it would not. For the girl, a Rohingya Muslim who agreed to be identified by her first initial, A, the pregnancy was a prison she was desperate to escape. The rape itself had destroyed her innocence. But carrying the baby of a Buddhist soldier could destroy her life.

The United Nations and humanitarian agencies recorded more than 6,000 incidents of gender-based violence against Rohingya Muslims in a seven-month period beginning in late August 2017. That was the month the Myanmar army, responding to Rohingya militant attacks against police posts, launched deadly "clearance operations" that drove nearly 700,000 people from their homes, one of the greatest exoduses in modern times. "Rape with impunity has been characteristic of the attack on Rohingya women and girls for years," said Matthew Smith, co-founder of Fortify Rights, an advocacy group that has extensively studied Myanmar. "Soldiers used rape as a tool in a larger attack aimed at destroying at least part of the Rohingya population. In legal terms we're in the landscape of genocide." From August through April, Doctors Without Borders treated 377 survivors of sexual violence — including girls as young as 7 — at its hospitals and health posts across the camps. The group believes this is a fraction of the total number of victims.

Can you hear these screams from Rohingya Muslim women? No, we don't. We don't want to hear their callings. These cries disrupt our comfortable living and become unbearable for our happy and easy-going routines. Muslim women

have become the easiest and the softest targets all over the world. WHY ??? Because no one is here to stand-up for them. All we do is to go to another banquet to hear the conditions of these victims. They don't care that one day, each of us has to answer for our actions. Dear sisters, your Muslim brothers have become spineless and shameless. You can NOT count on your men any more. They have lost their courage and their dignity. You have to stand up and face the violence and fight these attackers yourself. Let us see what Allah and His Prophet (PBUH) is saying: Quran : Surah Al-Nisa, 4:75 : "And what is [the matter] with you that you fight not in the cause of Allah and [for] the oppressed among men, women, and children who say, "Our Lord, take us out of this city of oppressive people and appoint for us from Yourself a protector and appoint for us from Yourself a helper?"

Hadeeth : On the authority of Thawbaan, the Prophet (PBUH)said: "The People will soon summon one another to attack you as people when eating invite others to share their food." Someone asked, "Will that be because of our small numbers at that time?" He replied, "No, you will be numerous at that time: but you will be froth and scum like that carried down by a torrent (of water), and Allah will take the fear of you from the breasts (hearts) of your enemy and cast al-wahn into your hearts." Someone asked, "O Messenger of Allah, what is al-wahn?" He replied, "Love of the world and dislike of death." [An authentic hadith recorded by Abu Dawud and Ahmad] Many NGOs are working in the refugee camps in Bangladesh. I am listing only three such organizations. Please support them.

**Friends of Humanity Int., 954-693-0620, FHII.Org, 833 Shotgun Rd, Sunrise, FL.*

**BASMAH, 561-945-3313, BASMAH.org, P.O.Box 272587, Boca Raton, FL 33427*

**Doctors Without Borders, 212-679-6800, 40 Rector St, 16th Floor, New York, NY*

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AL-HIKMAT DA'WAH UPDATE

By: Salma Mohammed

Religion & Politics in America



Photo from left: Dr. Nasir, Br. Imtiaz, Comm. Jay Schwartz, Br. Asif Malik & Sis. Yasemin Saib

Photo from left: Sis. Saima, Br. Azad Ali, Bro. Wilfredo, Bro. Javed, Judge Norman Hemming

Photos above: On Sunday December 23rd, 2018 Al-Hikmat held a LIVE Talk Show on Al-Hikmat TV. The topic was on Religion & Politics in America. The show was hosted by Shaikh Shafayat, MaaShaa Allaah.

The Legacy of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W)

Da'wah Trip in Vancouver, Canada



Photo above: Al-Hamdulillaah on November 17th, 2018 Islamic Center of Washington Area (ISWA), Maryland USA invited Shaikh Shafayat to deliver a lecture on the Legacy of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W). The program was a great success. MaaShaa Allaah.

Jama Masjid **Qari Abdul Wahab & Shaikh Shafayat**

Photos above: 11/14/2018: Al-Hamdulillaah- Shaikh Shafayat delivered the Jumua Khutbah at the Jama Masjid - (the largest Masjid) in Vancouver Canada. The head Imaam is Qari Abdul Wahab.

Ar-Rayyan Qur'aan Academy

**Al-Hikmat TV
5 Pillars Game**

Photo on right:

Al-Hamdulillaah on Saturday January 19th, 2019, Mozac Apparel held a game night "5 Pillars" on Al-Hikmat TV for all children and family members.



The event was coordinated by Bro. Basit & Sis. Fauzia. If you would like to purchase a 5 Pillars game contact the Al-Hikmat Office at 954-986-0158.



Photos above: Al-Hamdulillaah - Ar-Rayyan Qur'aan Academy held a Fundraising Dinner on Sat. Jan. 26th, 2019 at Mehfil Restaurant in Sunrise Florida USA. Lectures were delivered by Mufti Izhar, Bro. Suhail Nanji, and the fundraising was done by Shaikh Shafayat. The event was coordinated by Bro. Azhar Hussain. MaaShaa Allaah



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(Founder of Al-Hikmat)

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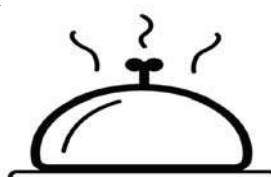


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INTERFAITH / COMMUNITY UPDATE

By: Salma Mohammed

CELEBRITY EDGE



Photo above: On December 4th, 2018 Shaikh Shafayat was invited to the Naming Ceremony of the Celebrity Edge cruise ship to perform an invocation. The ship was launched at the Port of Everglades, Florida USA. The guest speaker of the event was Malala Yousafzai, a Muslim activist for female education.

Al-Hikmat TV Interviews
www.alhikmatTV.com / Youtube: Hikmat 786



Left: Dr. Khalillah Ali (Former wife of Muhammad Ali)
 Host: Shaikh Shafayat



Left: Bro. Nezar Hamze (South Florida Muslim Federation)
 Host: Shaikh Shafayat



Left: Mrs. Marjorie Aloni (Miami Jewish Health)
 Host: Shaikh Shafayat

Pembroke Pines City Clergy Meeting

Mayor Frank Ortis held a meeting on Thursday January 31st, 2019 with City officials and Clergy Leaders to discuss issues for the residents of Pembroke Pines.



Photo above from right: Comm. Jay Schwartz & Shaikh Shafayat



Photo above: Police Chief and City Officials.

Miami Jewish Health



Photo above: A Private Resource Referral Meeting was coordinated by Marjorie Aloni at Hazel Cypen Tower at the Miami Jewish Health Facilities. Following the meeting, a tour was given to the Independent and Assisted Living Facilities.

Stress Management Seminar

Photo on right: Al-Hamdulillaah- On Saturday January 19th, 2019 MWO held a Stress Management Seminar. Sis. Natasha Haroon delivered a fun, interactive and educational seminar to everyone who came out to learn the tips and techniques to help us live a healthier life.



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 Background: Trinidad

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 between ages of 45-55

Age 25 / Resides in Washington
 Profession: Student
 Ethnic Background: Guyana

Age 33 / Resides in Texas
 Profession: Business
 Ethnic Background: Trinidad

BROTHERS SEEKING A SPOUSE

Age: 32 / Resides in Miami
 Profession: Software Engineer
 Ethnic Background: Pakistan

Age 32 / Resides in Miami, Florida
 Profession: Health Insurance Agent
 Ethnic Background: Pakistan

Age: 29 / Resides in Florida
 Ethnic Background: Trinidad

For more names of Brothers and Sisters who are seeking a spouse, please contact Al-Hikmat Office or visit our website: www.alhikmat.com

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FEEDBACK / VOICE OF OUR READERS

Request for Da'wah Materials

Assalalaamu Alaikum

To whom it may concern

I am a Muslim and I have been in the Deen for 4 years now. My name is Zachariah Roberts and my Muslim name is Abdullah. I am 23 years old and have been a Muslim since I was 19 years old. I am currently incarcerated in prison at this time and I have about 17 months left until I go home, InShaa Allaah. I am writing to receive a subscription of the Al-Hikmat Magazine, Da'wah Materials and literature so I can learn more about the Islamic way of life, InShaa Allaah. Hope to hear from you soon!

Zachariah Roberts / Malone Florida USA

I Am In Prison

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Praise be to Allaah! My name is Jerry Graham, Muslim name is Siddiq. I am a Muslim in need of a little book called: Fortress for Muslims, prayers before and after. I have no money and I'm in prison. Could you please help and if possible, the Ninety Nine Names of Allaah as well, please. Thank you kindly!

Bro. Siddiq / Amarillo, Texas

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Samiya Bilquees / New Jersey

Al-Hikmat is very informative with subjects that I love to read.

Abdool Rafeek / New York

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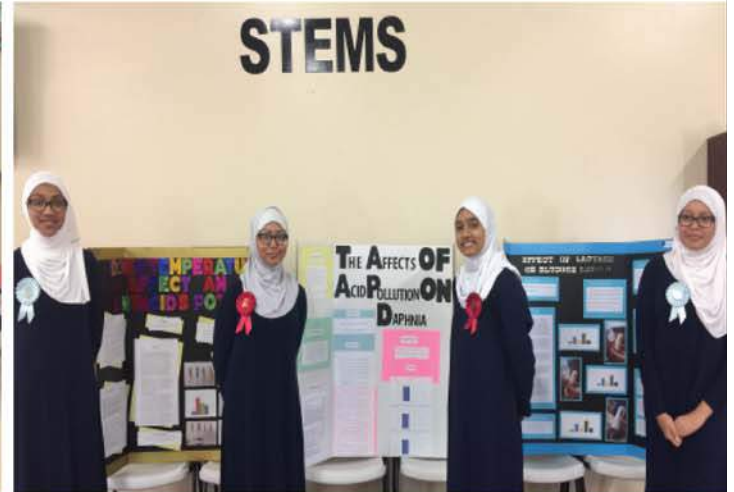
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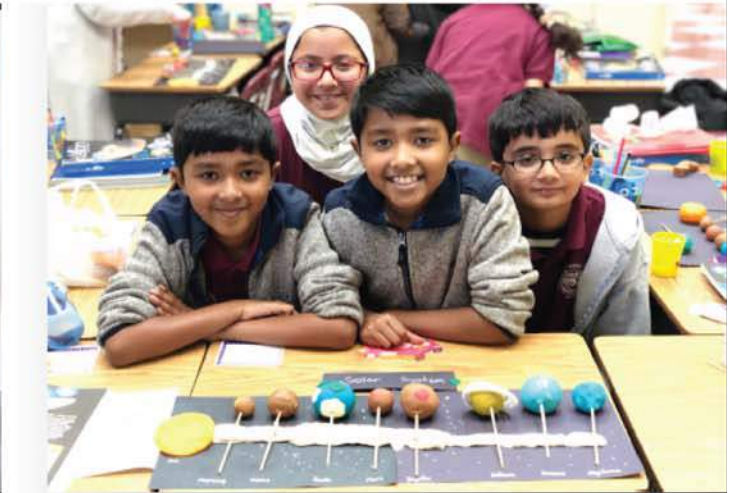
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Linda Kaplan, Esq.

IMMIGRATION CORNER

USCIS Remains Open during the Government Shutdown

By Linda Kaplan, Esq. / Florida USA

I have received many questions about whether immigration is still working during the shutdown. The answer is yes, for the most part. Offices remain open and interviews continue to be held. USCIS will continue to accept petitions and applications for benefit requests. The reason for this is that USCIS is not funded by taxes. I emphasize this because it surprises most people who hear this. The funding for visa applications, relative and business petitions as well as naturalization petitions is wholly funded by user fees (filing fees) so operations continue as usual and employees continue to be paid. The only exceptions to this are the following:

EB-5 Immigrant Regional Centers which are public or private economic units in the U.S. that promote economic growth
E-Verify, a free internet-based system that allows businesses to determine the eligibility of their employees to work in the U.S.
Conrad 30 Waiver Program under which doctors with J-I visas can apply for a waiver of the requirement to spend two years outside of the U.S. after completing the J-1 exchange program.
Non-minister religious workers petitions which allow non-ministers in religious vocations and occupations to obtain permanent resident status.

USCIS is separate from the Immigration Court which is closed except for emergency filings for people already in detention. TSA employees are being required to work without pay but there have been numerous reports of many TSA employees calling in sick which has been linked to longer lines at the airports. It is H-1B season U.S. Businesses that need to hire foreign professionals on a temporary basis can only do so during the first week of April but January or February is the time to get started on processing these visas. The first step is to determine the "prevailing wage" for the position which must be included on an "LCA" (labor condition application) filed with the U.S. Department of Labor prior to filing the visa petition with USCIS. A more detailed discussion of this visa and the steps that must be undertaken to obtain this visa can be found on my blog published in January of 2017.

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Br. Hamzad

GREET THE ISLAMIC WAY

By Br. Hamzad Mohammed
 T.T.U.T.A.'s TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2013, TRINIDAD, WI

We come into frequent contact with people every day of our lives. To avoid any acrimony and suspicion, it is wise to greet people whom we meet. When people greet one another, they strengthen the bonds of friendship and so set the tone for harmonious living. The warmth generated from greetings, obliterates the evil from man and replaces it with perpetual love and serenity which are the ingredients for a much-needed civilised life. People from different races, religions and cultures may have their unique ways of greeting. Nevertheless, whatever the form, love and harmony will always be the products from giving and returning greetings.

Corinthians 13: 12 states, "Greet one another with a holy kiss." This was the **Christian** way of greeting, many centuries ago. It is a form which is still used today to bring joy and happiness to millions of Christians the world over.

In some Islamic countries, the above practice of kissing with an accompanying warm embrace is a custom of many male Muslims. However, in Islam, Muslims have certain guidelines to follow with respect to greetings. Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) said Muslims should:

- Greet their Muslim brothers and sisters on meeting them with "Assalamu Alaikum."
- Return a greeting of "Assalamu Alaikum" with "Wa-alaikum as Salam."
- Greet on arrival and departure.
- On meeting someone, greet him first and then begin to talk.
- Avoid greeting someone who is busy reading the Quran, delivering or listening to a khutbah, calling the adhaan, reciting the takbir or busy teaching the Quran.
- Greet the person who returns from a journey.
- Greet by using hands.
- Respond cordially to greetings.
- On entering someone's house, greet the occupants first.
- Be the first to greet anyone.
- Greet orally and in a loud voice.
- Greet every Muslim whether you know him or not and
- Encourage the sending of greetings first by the younger to elder, smaller group to a larger one, pedestrian to the seated and the horseback riders to those on foot. Some Muslims are ashamed to greet or return the appropriate Islamic greeting to their brothers and sisters. Such Muslims are only living in ignorance and so they need to take stock of themselves. Why? It's only to avoid Allah's displeasure of us. Having a clearer understanding of some of the Islamic etiquettes of greeting, Muslims should desist from any un-Islamic methods they practise and resort to the better Islamic way to please Allah. **Inshallah** (by the will of Allah) when that form of Islamic mannerism is adopted, His **noor** (light) will shine on us all. **Allahu Akbar** (Allah is the Greatest.)



POETRY COLUMN

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



Bro. Azad Ali

A JOURNEY'S END

Glory be to the Almighty on high
Who has created the earth and all
beyond the sky,
Glory to the Almighty for guidance to
man
Words of wisdom too to live in peace
on this blessed land.....

Some chose to tread a darkened path
Misleading the ignorant with weakened hearts,
They live only for vanities of a glittered world
Altering the messages as was originally told.....
Nations of old perished for their sins
Dwellings of Lot destroyed all perished within,
Those too who have turned from divine guidance
Shall wander this land in blinded ignorance.....
Many shall be called to spread the word
Few shall be chosen to enlighten the road,
For the Almighty knows the secrets within our souls
He shall guide the righteous to an everlasting
world.....
Mankind shall only reap what he has sown
Examples of the misguided He has shown,
Just like the wife of Lot who was turned into stone
This world for us is but our temporary home.....
True faith is to believe in the Unseen
In the hereafter where rivers flow beneath the green,
All shall be adjudged on deeds on earth
All our actions were recorded since our birth.....
Live today as if it is your last
Do all that is good and dwell not on the past,
Life shall abound with contentment and love
Gold Doors shall be opened from the Unseen
above.....

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Continued from page 12

Salaah/Prayer #LifePriority!

Bro. Al Mustapha / Florida USA

The Prophet SAW said the difference between a Muslim and a non-Muslim is their Salaah or prayer. So those who not pray must make a start today. Ask Allah SWT to guide you to perform all your Salaah and make a start before it's too late, people are dying unexpectedly daily; let us make time for our Lord! If you don't know how to pray then go to any Masjid and ask the Imam to help you and he certainly will or call me at (954) 801-1904 and I will ensure that you get the help to learn to pray In shaa Allah. For those who do pray, shouldn't we strive to get the performance of our Salaah correct? When it comes to Salaah, quality is more important than quantity. Salaah is not a race to see who can finish first, it must be done with humility and attentiveness as Allah commanded in 23: 1-2, "Successful indeed are the believers, who are humble in their prayers". The Prophet SAW said that the worst thief among men/women is he who steals from his Salaah (by mindlessly speeding thru it). At a minimum, at least our fard Salaah must be done as perfect as possible as well as the others. While this might be a gradual process we must start today my friends, this is the MOST important issue of our lifetime after our Imaan! After that comes our character and all the other pillars and articles of our faith and the other aspects of our Deen which only gets better with the blessings derived from Salaah. Prophet Muhammad SAW advised that the key to Paradise is Salaah. We need to grab the key if we want to get in my friends! This is an absolute non-negotiable item in our lives. Some of the last words to us from the last Prophet of Allah was Salaah, Salaah, Salaah! If nothing else in life let's get this right my friends, our life and our families lives depends on it! May Allah SWT have mercy on us and give us the Iman, guidance, motivation and courage to correctly perform our five daily Salaah for His pleasure, and grant us Jannatul Firdaus without reckoning, Aameen!



HUMOR

MUSLIM LION

Two men were walking through a game park and they come across a lion that has not eaten for days. The lion starts chasing the two men. They ran as fast as they can, until one guy starts getting tired and decides to say a prayer, "Please God, turn this lion into a Muslim." He looks to see if the lion is still chasing him, but instead he saw the lion on its knees praying. He was happy to see that his prayer was answered. He went closer to the lion, and heard the lion praying, "thank you God for the food that I am about to eat."



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Dr. Farzanna

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Dr. Farzanna Sherene Haffizulla, MD FACP FAMWA

RECOGNITION CORNER

Dr. Farzanna Sherene Haffizulla, MD FACP FAMWA is the 2014-2015 national President of the American Medical Women’s Association (AMWA) and served as the South Florida AMWA branch President and one of its founding officers. She graduated summa cum laude and with University Honors in Molecular Biology and Microbiology from the University of Central Florida. She completed medical school at The University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Her residency training was at the Cleveland Clinic Florida and at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Ohio and she is Board Certified in Internal Medicine. Dr. Haffizulla is the Assistant Dean for Community and Global Health at Nova Southeastern University’s College of Allopathic Medicine. Dr. Haffizulla is the on-camera show host, anchor and medical correspondent for the nationwide health program, Mission Critical Health. Dr. Haffizulla is also a full scientific board member for Shulman Institutional Review Board. She was chosen as a National Delegate, representing Florida for Drexel’s Institute for Women’s Health and Leadership’s Vision 2020 program. She also serves as a Physician Ambassador for Broward County’s Department of Health promoting prevention of disease in Broward County. Recently, Dr. Haffizulla was chosen to receive a Global Award as “The Most Outstanding Advocate for Integrated Community Care in the World in 2017” at a ceremony in London on November 9, 2017. According to the selection committee, “Dr. Haffizulla is the most outstanding exemplar of embracing change in fostering the fusion of traditional medicine with telemedicine/house calls and health. In April of 2018, Dr. Haffizulla received a “Woman of the Decade” award in New Delhi, India from the Women’s Economic Forum and the All Ladies League. Dr. Haffizulla is a nationally recognized speaker and expert on work/life balance and published “Harmony of the Spheres: Career, Family and Community” in 2011. She also founded and runs a work/life balance site www.BusyMomMD.com. She authored and nationally published several articles to parenting and professional communities and in July 2014 published her second book: “Lead with your Heart: A Doctor’s Rx for Personal and Professional Success.” She founded and opened her own concierge, Internal Medicine hybrid private practice in 2008 after practicing in a traditional setting for 5 years. Dr. Haffizulla lives in South Florida with her husband Dr. Jason Haffizulla and their four children. MaaShaa Allaah.

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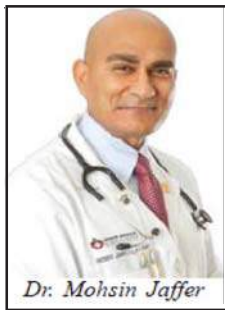
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Dr. Mohsin Jaffer

HEALTH

Dr. Mohsin Jaffer
President of Senior Medical Associates

IMMEDIATE RELIEF FROM EAR PAIN

Ear pain can be solved quickly at your doctor's office under 10 minutes. Ear wax

(also known as cerumen) performs an important job protecting the ear canal and ear drum from dryness and debris while regulating the temperature. Ear wax protects the skin of the ear from infection and water. Unfortunately, sometimes the body produces too much ear wax, or the wax becomes dry. This phenomenon can cause ear pain, ringing in the ears, ear blockage, and sometimes even temporary hearing loss. If left untreated, the condition can wear away at the fragile structure of the inner ear, harming the ear canal and ear drum. An ear lavage is a simple remedy that can be performed by a doctor. It is used to clean out the ears, providing immediate pain relief. An ear lavage can also be used to remove objects that have been trapped in the ears. In some cases, an ear lavage is the wrong answer. If the pain is actually coming from an ear infection or damaged ear drum, a lavage can be very damaging. If you have ear implants or an auto-immune disease, an ear lavage may have other complications. It is best to visit a doctor prior to attempting an ear lavage at home.

Symptoms Improved by Ear Lavage:

- Ear blockage
- Ringing in ears
- Temporary hearing loss
- Earaches
- Ear discomfort

As you age, eardrums get thicker affecting bones in the middle ear and auditory nerve. This results in a decline in hearing sharpness. An accumulation of ear wax is also a cause of trouble hearing.

The First Visit: Firstly, excessive earwax can be identified during a routine doctor visit. This is often what happens when people do not realize they are living with excessive wax. The doctor will examine your ear using an otoscope: a magnifying glass with a built-in flashlight. After you have visited a doctor and confirmed that the problem is either excess earwax, dry ear wax, or an object trapped inside the ear, the procedure can be done at your doctor's office. It is recommended to have a medical professional remove any large objects, as the procedure could damage the inner ear. Sometimes, an ear lavage must be done multiple times a day.

At the Doctor: You will be asked to either lie down or sit with your head angled to the side. The doctor will use an applicator, which looks like a cross between an eyedropper and a syringe, to flush out your ear with either warm water or a saline solution. You will be provided with a bowl to catch the water and ear wax.

Continued on Page 34, InShaa Allaah

Continued from page 11

By Bro. Twalib Ali

THE COVENANT OF THE PROPHETS

'Magic' was the 'thing' of that era and Egypt's best magicians were mesmerized and put to shame when they lost to Moses (peace be upon him) in the presence of Pharaoh and his people. I asked her, "Is Moses God Almighty?" She replied, "Absolutely not!" Then I asked her what was the 'thing' that impressed people during the time of the Prophet David? She looked confused and then I said 'fighting' or 'engaging in battle' - the show of strength and power. And so David slayed Goliath and not too long after he became King and ruler over his people. Then I asked if David was Almighty God to slay such a giant of a man. She replied, "No!" Then I mentioned about the Prophet Joseph who was in a prison for 14 years for a crime he did not commit. I asked her, "What was the 'thing' that was impressive in that time?" I told her that it was interpreting dreams and Almighty God had blessed His Prophet Joseph with the gift and knowledge of interpreting 'dreams' which he did for the ruler of Egypt. Joseph was released from prison to explain the Pharaoh's dream. The Ruler was convinced at Joseph's interpretation and he made him one of the highest-ranking officials in Egypt. My question to her, "Was Joseph God?" She replied, "No!" Then I said I would go directly to Jesus and Muhammad (peace be upon them). I asked what appealed to the people during the time of Jesus. She was not sure and I told her that it was 'Medicine and Science,' and here is a man born without a father, and his mother was a virgin. The Jewish people refused to believe that since it was not scientifically and medically possible. The Christian woman remarked, "That would make him God in the flesh as most Christians believe." I asked her if Adam was God, or son of God since he had neither a father nor a mother. She replied, "No! He was created by God." I told her that the similitude of Jesus is like that of Adam, and that Almighty God only has to say "Be!" and it is, just like when He said "Let there be light," and light came into existence. The word 'Be' which he bestowed upon Mary became 'flesh' as it was in the case of Adam. God never became flesh. It is a great misunderstanding by so many people throughout the world. And then Jesus who was given the gift or power to heal every kind of illness made as it were, the figure of a bird and it came to life by God's permission - scientifically impossible! Medically, there were no cures for any of those diseases that Jesus healed including casting out the evil spirits (Jinns). The leaders among his people were confused especially after he brought Lazarus back to life 'by God's permission' - medically and scientifically impossible. Many called him God and son of God, etc. but he never said such things. The Jews were the best doctors and men of science since they knew the Scriptures very well and were chosen by Almighty God "for His Message." They had been given so much knowledge that they viewed Jesus as an 'imposter,' and some called him a 'magician,' and a 'false prophet.'

To be Continued in the Next Issue, InShaa Allaah

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QUESTION & ANSWER CORNER

By: Shaikh Shafayat Mohamed

IS MARRIAGE COMPULSORY IN ISLAM

Question: Is Marriage compulsory in Islam?

Al-Hamdulillaah YES and NO. Marriage is based on individuals faith in God, their capabilities, their desires, needs and requirements etc.,

Marriage becomes FARD or compulsory for the one who is certain to fall into adultery if he or she does not marry. Marriage is considered SUNNAH, which means that it is a practice of the Holy Prophet SAW. It is not obligatory but carries great blessings.

Generally and practically, marriage is a blessing and bounty from Allaah. **In the Holy Qur'aan Ch: 4 V: 1 "O mankind! reverence your Guardian-Lord, who created you from a single person, created, of like nature, His mate, and from them twain scattered (like seeds) countless men and women;- reverence Allah, through whom ye demand your mutual (rights), and (reverence) the wombs (That bore you): for Allaah ever watches over you." Ch: 30 V: 21 " "And among His Signs is this, that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that ye may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts): verily in that are Signs for those who reflect."** These verses indicate that marriage is a favor from Allaah, so everyone should make the intention and effort to get married. However, marriage can also be classified as HARAAM or forbidden for that person who would oppress one's spouse if married.

Allaah Knows Best.

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Dr. & Mrs. Jaffer are the founders of Senior Medical Associates and together they welcome new patients at all 10 centers and thank existing patients for the confidence in their TEAM.

We specialize in Seniors-

We are dedicated to providing personalized primary care. We specialize in the care of seniors and know what seniors want and need from a doctor's office. This attention to detail starts with our friendly and patient medical staff and culminates with good doctors practicing good medicine. For your convenience, we offer many medical services onsite with the same doctor you know and trust.

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Continued from page 11

Submitted by Bro. Farooq Shafi

THE DREAM

The Sultan visited the room where they were staying but could only find usual daily items and some scattered books. The situation left his seriously puzzled amid frequent requests for their pardon by the citizens of Madinah. He was told about their very pious nature and their continuous charity during the recent drought. The embarrassing situation remained until an idea struck the Sultan. He looked around the room and saw the prayer mat in the corner. The mat was spread on a small rock. He ordered the rug and the rock removed. In his extreme shock and anger, he discovered a tunnel dug deep underneath leading to the prophet's grave. He immediately ordered them arrested and started questioning them. Their disclosure came to everyone as a complete shock. The two men revealed that they were Christian

spies and were dispatched and funded for a special mission by the Christian kings to enter the prophet's grave and take his body away. The Sultan ordered them beheaded right away. In some commentaries, it is said that the Sultan went in the tunnel alone and came across the body of the holy prophet (SAW). He could see his foot which he kissed, covered and then he came out and ordered the tunnel closed immediately. It is also said that these two men were ready to take the body that night. Once the tunnel was closed, the Sultan ordered a deep channel dug around the prophet's grave and ordered it filled with molten lead and copper to protect his (SAW) grave from any future mischievous attempts by anyone forever. Subhaan Allaah.



Continued from page 8

GPS OF LIFE

By: Sylmerie Mustafa

Allah (SWT) blessed us with The Quran, the only handbook, we will ever need and the exemplary life and teachings of prophet Muhammad, pbuh, and the details of the Quran, so that we can live a positive, productive and rewarding life with mankind and lead a life that is pleasing to Allah (SWT). This is the only GPS we need in order to maintain an effective life and an attain a organized global system. So a reminder to myself and you, to always follow Allah (SWT) directions, learn and read His Quran. He will guide us to the direct path to a blessed life. As long as we continually make effort to follow Allah (SWT) guidance; He will reroute us if we are going astray. May we all follow Allah's guidance and live our lives in the best manner that is pleasing to Him. Remember we are students for life. Ameen

Continued from page 30

IMMEDIATE RELIEF FROM EAR PAIN

By: Dr. Jaffer

The procedure is not especially comfortable, but will be done within 10-15 minutes. Like most good things, ear lavages can be overused. Even if excess ear wax is a reoccurring problem, it is recommended to restrict the procedure to 2-3 times a day for up to 4 days. This will minimize irritation to the ears, and provide time for recovery.

Alternative Solutions: When a lavage is not effective; prescription ear drops (trolamine, polypeptide oleate, cerumenex) or for dry ear wax: ear pick (don't push too far into ear). We recommend avoiding the use of cotton swabs as the tendency is to push the swab too far into the ear resulting in pushing more wax into the canal.

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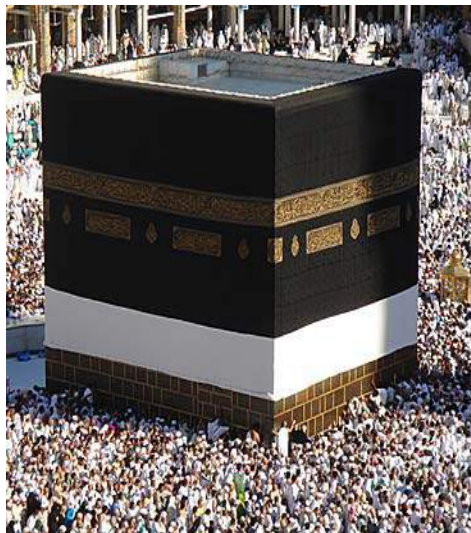
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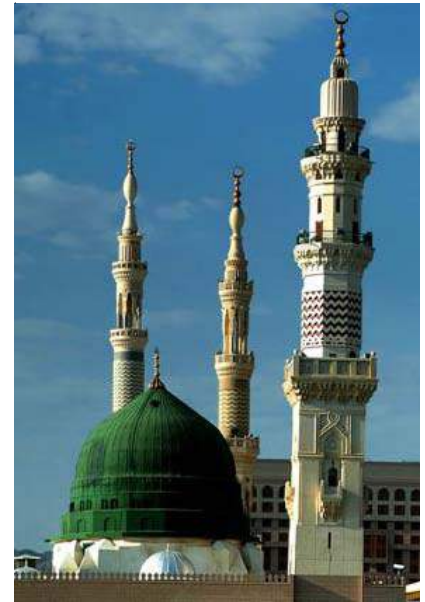
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