

Household Improvement Project

The Muslim Empowerment Fund is constantly finding ways to assist and empower people. Its latest project is the "Household Improvement Project."

This project looks at households that require basic and necessary home essentials. These may include a fridge, stove, cupboard, table, chairs, simple kitchenware, etc. The idea is to improve the quality of the lives of the people in these households.

Anyone wishing to contribute financially and/or in kind towards this and other projects may contact Darul Ihsan.

REVIVE A SUNNAH

Eat on a Dastarkhan (eating mat)

Qatadah ؓ reported on the authority of Anas ؓ that Nabi ﷺ did not partake in food whilst sitting on a table, nor from a small bowl; and no thin bread was baked for him. Qatadah was then questioned: 'What did they eat on?' He replied: 'On leather cloths' (placed on the floor). (Bukhari)

COME & COLLECT A FREE DASTARKHAN FROM OUR OFFICE!

SPONSOR A BLANKET

R45.00
per blanket

Over **1600 blankets** have been distributed with your kind donations at the following venues:

1. Durban CBD
2. Stanger
3. Mooi River
4. Ixopo
5. Verulam
6. Phoenix

Please continue to support this noble cause and service to the poorest in our midst. May Allah reward you.

Banking Details:
First National Bank
Darul Ihsan Islamic Services Centre
A/C: 62134947144 Ref: Blanket

Wish to receive our free sms's and e-newsletters?
Then sms your details to 083 786 0788
or email disc@darulihisan.com immediately!

My Madrasah Bag

Alhamdulillah, over 400 bags - ideal for carrying Quran Shareef, Madrasah Kitabs and books - were distributed by Darul Ihsan, at no cost, to children and Maktabas.



The bags are imprinted a logo "My Madrasah Bag" label.

If anyone wishes to contribute towards this project, contact the office.

Be Alert!!!

We calling on responsible and vigilant Muslims to report any anti-Islamic content in the media. Please contact our Media Department: media@darulihisan.com or 08611 44726 (ph)

Darul Ihsan expands welfare operations

Alhamdulillah, the Welfare Desk of Darul Ihsan has drastically expanded its operations in the last year.

With a budget of over R 350 000 a month, assistance to the number of people has increased. Due to the high unemployment rate, economic downturn and the rise in the cost of living, there has been an increasing need for welfare assistance.



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HURRY - LIMITED SPACES
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Darul Ihsan Bursary Fund

Notes of Appreciation...

"I live in Cape Town. I had applied for a bursary from Darul Ihsan and in February, Alhamdulillah, I was granted a bursary."

I am very grateful and happy to have received the bursary. I would like to say Jazakallahu Khairan to all the brothers at Darul Ihsan for the bursary. May Allah reward you in this dunya and in the Akhira."

"As Muslims we must help each other as this is the Sunnah of our beloved Prophet ﷺ, the best creation of Allah Ta'ala."

With the help of Allah Ta'ala and Darul Ihsan I am now able to continue my studies. May Allah Ta'ala make us among those who help one another, Ameen.
Shukran

Sponsor a Quran Desk

The Prophet ﷺ said:

"When a human dies, then his good deeds stop except for three: a Sadaqa Jariah (continuous charity), beneficial knowledge, or a righteous child who prays for him." (Muslim)

Desks will be distributed countrywide to various Masjids and Madrasahs. An ideal opportunity to invest for the Akhirah.

Banking Details:
First National Bank
Darul Ihsan Islamic Services Centre
A/C: 62134947144

R25.00
per desk

Ref: Desk

Important Notice

Those returning from Umrah have had problems at the Durban King Shaka Airport with their dates confiscated. Please be advised to apply for a permit from the Dept. of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries at 012 3196102. There is however a small fee to pay for the permit.

Q & A

Q Is it compulsory to pray Qasr even though we have sufficient facilities to pray the regular Salah while we are on a journey of over 77 kms?

A In terms of the Hanafi school, if a Shari traveller is performing his Salah individually or is leading the prayer he is obliged to pray the Salah as Qasr. It is not correct for him to perform the complete prayer without the concession.

Q If we are travelling and we have a mosque on the way, can we join the regular Jamaat and perform the full prayer?

A It is permissible to join the main prayer in a Masjid behind an Imaam who is not a traveller. In this instance, the Salah is to be performed in full without the concession.

Q At times, if we do not have the opportunity of even performing a Qasr on a journey like it is a long flight and you missed 2 or 3 Salahs in a row and when you reach destination, do we pray Qasr or the missed Salahs or Qaza the full prayer? What is the position when a person is travelling on an aircraft and the flight attendants refuse him permission to perform his Salah in a place where he is able to face Qibla? This happened to me once on a flight returning to South Africa and the flight attendant told me to perform my Salah in my seat.

A It is very possible to perform Salah whilst standing and facing the Qibla when on a plane. Accordingly, it is not permissible to forego the Salah when travelling on a plane. One should perform the Salah whilst standing and facing the Qibla. Of course one should do so, by finding an appropriate place where the least inconvenience is caused to crew and fellow passengers. Further, one should perform the Salah at such a time that does not interfere with the service of the crew. E.g. before meal times or thereafter etc. However, if the plane is small, or one is unable to get off the seats due to turbulence or the crew are extremely unaccommodating and there is no way in which one could stand and perform Salah facing the Qibla then one should perform the Salah on the seat and thereafter repeat it once one has landed or is able to perform the Salah standing facing the Qibla.

In the extremely unfortunate instance where Salah was missed whilst one was a Musaafir and one is making up for it (performing the Qadhaa) after one is no longer a Musaafir, the Qadhaa of these Salah are to be made in Qasr. One should also make sincere Tauba and Istighfaar for not performing the Salah at its stipulated time. One should also preferably give out some charity.

Mi'raj - A journey of unusual incidents

Nabi ﷺ had witnessed many strange scenes during the Mi'raj, about which he enquired from Jibraeel عليه السلام. Some of these incidents have been recorded as follows:

"Scissors of fire"

Anas رضي الله عنه narrated that Rasulullah ﷺ said, "On the night of Mi'raj, I saw some people's lips being cut with scissors of fire. I asked Jibraeel عليه السلام who these people were? He replied that they were the khateebis who commanded people to do good deeds while forgetting their own selves." (Mishkatul Masabih)

"Fingernails of copper"

Anas رضي الله عنه narrates that Rasulullah ﷺ said, "When I was taken up during the Mi'raj, I passed by two people who had fingernails of copper and they were raking their own faces and chests with them. I asked Jibraeel عليه السلام who they were? He replied that they were those who used to eat the flesh of their brothers (ie. slandered them) and attacked their reputations." (Abu Dawud)

"Bellies like homes"

It has been narrated by Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه that Rasulullah ﷺ said, "On the night of Israa, I passed by two people with bellies as huge as houses (in which people stay), and inside their bellies were snakes which were visible from outside. I asked Jibraeel عليه السلام who they were? He replied that they were those who consumed interest." (Mishkatul Masabih)

"Crushed with rocks"

Nabi ﷺ passed by another group of people whose heads were being crushed with boulders. After becoming smashed, their heads would again resume their original shape, only to be crushed again. The process would continue ceaselessly. Nabi ﷺ asked Jibraeel عليه السلام who they were? He replied that they were those people who were neglectful of their Salah. During the time of Salah, they would remain asleep.

"Engulfed in flames"

Then they passed by another group of people whose private parts from the front and behind were engulfed in flames of fire which were leaping like camels and cattle. They were eating Daree and Zaqqum (i.e. a thorny and terrible tree mixed with stones). Rasulullah ﷺ asked about these people. Jibraeel عليه السلام replied, "They were those who would not discharge the Zakah of their wealth."

"Eating decayed meat"

Nabi ﷺ passed by a group of people before whom was some cooked meat in a pot. In another pot nearby, was some raw and decayed meat. These people were eating the decayed meat and ignoring the cooked meat. Rasulullah ﷺ asked Jibraeel عليه السلام who they were? He replied that they were those men of the Ummah who, despite having their own lawful and pure wives, would spend the night in the company of adulteresses and despicable women and remained with them till the morning; and they were those women of the Ummah who had left their lawful and pure husbands to spend the night with adulterous and evil men.

"Carrying a huge bundle of wood"

Rasulullah ﷺ passed by a man in front of whom was a very large bundle of wood which he could not lift and yet he wanted to carry even more. Nabi ﷺ asked about this person. Jibraeel عليه السلام replied that this was the person who, in spite of being appointed a trustee of people's belongings, had failed to discharge it. And yet he was eager to accept more duties of the people as a trust.

(The Miracle of Mi'raaj - Mufti Aashiq Ilaahi (R))

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The Miraculous Journey of Mi'raj

• Al-Isra (journey to Masjid-al-Aqsa) and Al-Mi'raj (journey to the heavens) is one of the greatest miracles of Rasulullah ﷺ. No being before him or after him ever travelled such a vast distance within such a short time. It is a requirement of Iman to believe in this supernatural, miraculous feat. To deny it or doubt it, destroys the Iman of a person.

• This nightly journey establishes the superiority, leadership and virtue of Nabi ﷺ over all the other Messengers of Allah ﷻ. This was particularly so when Nabi ﷺ led them in Salah at Masjid-al-Aqsa. Do we regard this greatest leader to be our role model & ideal?

• By virtue of the greatness and glory conferred to Nabi ﷺ as the leader of the Prophets, we as his Ummah, have become the greatest of all the Ummahs. This is a great honour for us. With honour comes responsibility. Are we fulfilling our responsibility as 'Khairul-Ummah'?

• The great significance of Masjid Al-Aqsa and al-Quds was established during this journey, as it was this holy land that was chosen for the congregation of the Prophets ﷺ. We have now lost our third Haram due to our misdeeds. The question is: How do we get it back?

• The Mi'raj of the Muslim Ummah is through Salah, which was granted to Rasulullah ﷺ personally on this journey in the heavens above. All other commands were sent down to the earth via Jibreel عليه السلام. Do we appreciate this great gift given to us by Almighty Allah Y or is it regarded as a burden?

The Prized Gifts of Mi'raj

One of the spiritual and soul inspiring events that took place during the lifetime of our distinguished Nabi ﷺ was the Mi'raj. This incident is considered as one of the indisputable events of history and is a part of our religious belief. Every Muslim, in accordance with the clear verses of the Qur'an, in addition, to the reliable chains of history, believes in the Mi'raj.

The Mi'raj in itself is one of the greatest gifts to this Ummah. The numerous scenarios observed by Nabi ﷺ at different intervals are indeed magnificent.

The three most prized gifts handed to the Ummah through the journey of Mi'raj were:

1. The five daily Salah are the foremost Ibadah; and is second to declaring the Oneness and Tawheed of Allah Ta'ala. Salah is fundamentally and essentially the quintessence of a Believer's life - without it, one is doomed.

2. The last few verses of Surah Al-Baqarah - from "Aamanar-Rasool" till the end of the Surah.

3. The forgiveness of all major sins, except ascribing partners with Allah.

However, the person will need to make sincere Taubah - seek repentance and forgiveness - otherwise be possible punished for a time but never forever like the non-believer.

Guidelines to improve the quality of Salah

1. Proceed to the Masjid a few minutes prior to the Azaan
2. Do a perfect Wudhu
3. Sit in the first Saff
4. Reply to the Azaan in full
5. Offer the Sunnah Salah

6. Then meditate as follows: Imagine you are going to stand before Allah - Supreme Creator of all
7. Keeping this thought in mind, and regarding this to be your last Salah, offer it behind the Imaam in Jamaah
8. Continue in this way for a few days. Inshallah, Ihsan will slowly be obtained!