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From South Africa With Love

Al Ihsan Relief (AIR) Completes 5th Mission to Lebanon



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GINGER BREW
***VOTED BEST**

**The Independent on Saturday Survey Dec 2011*

From the Diary of Al Ihsan Relief Team to Lebanon

Thursday, 22 May 2014: Three-man 'Al Ihsan Relief' (AIR) team departs from Johannesburg bound for Beirut to provide desperate relief to Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

Alhamdulillah, despite the odds - through the concern and Duas of South African Muslim well-wishers - the team was allowed easy entry into the country.

Friday 23 May 2014: A day of immense preparation, logistical planning and sourcing of basic food supplies - including much needed baby milk formula and other utilities - the AIR team called upon the best food suppliers for high grade product at the lowest possible cost.

Saturday 24 May 2014: The AIR team - with all supplies - leaves on a journey for the north-eastern region of Lebanon known as the Bekaa Valley. On arrival we had the honour of being received by the most senior authority in Lebanon - the Grand Mufti of Lebanon.

The Mufti greeted the Al Ihsan Relief team and expressed his sincere appreciation to us and especially the South African Ummah, for the concern we have and the pain we feel for the plight of the Syrian refugees. He relates the parable of the Ummah being as one body, where the pain of a single limb is felt by the entire body. He marvelled at the logistical efficiency and the sheer commitment and passion of the team and the concern of South Africans to ensure that they contribute in some way to their brothers and sisters suffering in Lebanon.

We were then honoured with an amazing tour of the 'Darul Fatwa,' the institute headed by the Grand Mufti of Lebanon, which has a roll-count of over 2000 students and conducts relief efforts among Syrian refugees.

Our visit to the refugee camps was a mixture of joy and grief. A most heart-breaking sight ... 'as we observed the progressive make-shift tents and an upcoming little school, droves of beautiful kids with stained cheeks and runny noses followed our trail, beady eyes fixed on our foreign images, a look of desperation and need, yet too modest to stretch-out an arm or beg.'

As we walked around, we extended a single toffee to each of them and then we experienced something that shattered our hearts and spirits. We meet beautiful eight year old Shaykha - green eyed, blonde hair, stained cheeks and a bright smile. I extended a sweet to her, kneeled down and whispered to her, 'Ayna Abuk?' Where is your father? Her eyes raised to meet mine, as if to confirm my question, her cheeks sunk down, her lips closed in and an instant tone of sadness filled her entire face as she raised her shoulders, tucked her neck in and replied 'La Adree' - I don't know!

At that moment I felt that it would have been better that the earth just swallowed me, than to remind this little angel of what she was slowly forgetting.

Saturday evening, in downtown Beirut, thousands of locals come out for the evening, amidst the traffic and people, many Syrian children,



unsupervised, selling garlands made of jasmine flower threaded with wool.

After supper, I called on a young boy, Rabee, an 8 year old, so that he may eat of the extras. Asking him about his parents and family, he whispered, they are all in Syria and he is here all by himself.

As we walked the streets of Beirut, Syrian children and women crowd the streets selling and begging at the street lights throughout the long nights. Some with newly born babies in their arms, some without parents, some barely 4 or 5 years, the tragedy is beyond any human imagination.

Sunday 25 May 2014: The day which the team will never forget - AIR carrying the responsibility of the Muslim's of South Africa will hand

deliver aid of the SOS (Save our Syria) campaign. Three hundred boxes of a month's supply for a family of A-grade groceries along with a thousand tins of baby formula are distributed in an very systematic and organised manner at two distribution points in Jeb Jenin in the Beka Valley of Lebanon.

Again with a mixture of joy and sadness, relief and hope, appreciation and dejection, millions left into night, without a mum and dad to provide for them or to look after.

Monday 26 May 2014: The team completes its mission and returns to South Africa with the message of thanks appreciation hope and request for continued support and duas. This was the fifth mission undertaken by AIR in Lebanon.



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Al-Ihsan Relief and the Syrian Refugee Crisis

Correspondent from Lebanon - Since March 2011, thousands of Syrian refugees have been relocating to neighbouring countries such as Egypt, Turkey, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon. Lebanon is the largest per capita recipient of refugees anywhere in the world. Although it is not in a position to support the Syrian refugees without substantial international assistance, Lebanon is the only country in the region that is keeping its borders open due to humanitarian concerns. Therefore, it is unthinkable that it should bear the brunt of this pressure without massive international support.

The bulk of the refugees are coming into parts of Lebanon where the poorest Lebanese live - which is the Bekaa and Akkar regions. According to the UNHCR "There are 225 localities that contain 86 per cent of the refugees and 68 per cent of the poorest Lebanese. The problems that they have had before are, of course, exacerbated by this influx."

Around two-thirds of the over 1.2 million Syrian refugees in the country have settled in the Bekaa Valley and the northern part of the country which are especially prone to harsh winter conditions. Harsh weather conditions were reportedly responsible for the death of a considerable numbers of Syrian infants in the north and the Bekaa valley following the arrival of the winter storm known as Alexa.

Syrian refugees in Lebanon have visibly increased in number in the past few months alone, with many of them having to resort to menial jobs or even begging. Half of the refugees are children under 11 years of age. Thousands of these refugees are settled in camps, shacks and unfinished houses. For example, in Jeb Janine (a village in West Bekaa), there is one settlement where 33 families were squeezed into 25 shacks. None of the children attend school. Only a quarter of the residents are registered with the United Nations refugees' agency to obtain food assistance.

In this village, there are four huge camps, hundreds of shacks and many unfinished houses and basements where more than two thousand Syrian refugee families live. Their living conditions are so bad that a local Lebanese charity committee - Al-Jinan - adopted this crisis project and is working on aiding the refugees in the village. Upon the arrival of the Al Ihsan Relief team in Lebanon the areas of need were identified and an implementation plan was adopted with Al Jinan in Jib Janine and the West of the Bekaa with the Dar Al-Fatwa organization and Dar Al-Oloum in Central and West Bekaa.

After undertaking an in-depth study of the refugees' most urgent needs, Al-Ihsan Relief sent their initial humanitarian aid to Jeb Jennine containing food hamper boxes,



blankets, baby kits, sanitary material and stationary.

Mr Fadol Desouqi --- head of Al-Jinan committee of Jeb Jennine expressed great appreciation for the humanitarian gesture of the Al Ihsan Relief Team. Excerpts from his speech are captured below :

1. "... many thanks to the South African people and the Al Ihsan Relief Team for helping the Syrians and the Lebanese in coping with (attending to) this humanitarian crisis. We pray that they continue to keep on the good work and support."

2. "According to the UNHCR and the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs, the number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon continues to rise and is said to reach over 1.5 million by the end of this year."

3. "Massive international support is crucially required ... to contain the magnitude of this human-devastation...".

According to the UNHCR and the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs massive international support is crucially required because the number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon is continuing to rise and is said to reach 1.5 million by the end of this year.



Visit www.alihsan.co.za for further updates and video footage of refugee camps



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Avoid the two "E"s

Many social problems which include disputes, divorces, and the breakdown of family relations are the result of us not managing situations correctly. Many of these problems can be avoided if we learn how to manage a situation.

Of the many ways of managing a situation, an important ingredient is to keep the two "E"s in control.

These are "EGOS" and "EMOTIONS".

Never say anything or react to a comment based on one's egos and emotions. Take some time to think and reflect on the situation before responding.

Avoid disputes. Saying the right thing, in the correct manner, at the right occasion, with the correct intention will always, Insha Allah, have the desired effect.

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Humour and Laughter

Laughter should be like salt in a curry or chutney with food. Too much salt or only chutney is not going to be desirous. So within limits if a person laughs or makes others laugh, this is not sinful. In fact, to put happiness into the heart of another is a Sunnah which draws rewards.

However, too much of laughter is spiritually harmful. Rasulallah ﷺ cautioned us: 'Do not laugh too much, for excessive laughter deadens the heart.'

The trend of frequenting comedy shows and paying for hours of laughter and entertainment - the content of which is futile, shameless and indecent - is not at

all condoned. In fact, in most cases, it is even impermissible. Such comedy, is in fact, extremely harmful to one's Iman, more especially when Islam becomes the brunt of mockery - as is found these days. Allah Ta'ala, the All-Wise, did not create us for this purpose - 'that we squander valuable time in worthless - nay, in destructive past times:'

"Did you then think that We had created you in jest, and that you would not be brought back to Us (for account)?"(Surah Mu'minoon 23:115)
by
Hazrat Maulana Yunus Patel
(Rahmatullahi 'alayh)

How to Deal with Differences of Opinion

The existence of Ikhtilaf (differences of opinion) in Islamic Jurisprudence is a well-developed and recognised branch of Fiqh (Jurisprudence), provided these differences fall within the parameters of the Quran and Sunnah. When differences of opinion are expressed with tolerance and respect then a healthy climate of harmony prevails among the scholars and Muslims.

The Sahabah (RA) disagreed about many matters to the extent that they had agreed to disagree. Ikhtilaf has played an important role in the development of Islam and its diverse cultures and adherents throughout the world. Differences of opinion is regarded to be a mercy for Muslims as it creates options and serves the different temperaments and nature of human beings. Tolerance of differences brings about appreciation and respect between different societies and diverse opinions. On the contrary, intolerance and rigidity on one's opinion creates tension and animosity.

Some believe that all differences should be eliminated so no ambiguity, conflict or confusion exists. However, this is unrealistic and has no historical precedent. Islam has given scope for scholars to differ constructively and within the sphere of Islam and to base their opinions on good faith and accountability in the court of Allah Ta'ala.

How do the Muslims cope with Ikhtilaf on issues that they encounter from time to time? Certain matters are such that they have a high level of sensitivity and have become a continuous cause of contention and strife for Muslims. At times, opinions are diametrically opposite to each other like issues of consumption

and earning that draw on the sensitivities of Muslims. If conveyed in an inflammatory manner these views lead to confusion and discord between individuals, families and communities. The discord is further perpetuated by ignorance and mischief makers who promote information or opinions that are not verified and at times slanderous in nature. This leads to tension, animosity, hatred and disunity among Muslims. This is contrary to the Islamic spirit of Adabul Ikhtilaf and etiquette of differing. Some guidelines that Muslims should adhere to when faced with challenges of difference of opinion :

1. Respect, respect, respect - maintain the highest degree of respect for all the righteous Ulama and personalities even if one cannot understand their opinions.
2. Consult and follow a reputable scholar who you have confidence in and you are compatible with.
3. Do not foist your view or the view of the Alim you follow over others. Rather be tolerant and respect the opinion and choices of others.
4. Adopt humility and do not consider yourself to be overly pious or the only one on the right path. Allah Ta'ala is the ultimate judge.
5. Even if you see someone doing wrong, keep a good opinion of the person and condemn the action as wrong and detrimental.
6. Ask Allah Ta'ala for continued guidance and safety from fitan and difficulties.
7. Always keep a check on your nafs and ego as people tend to become victims of their ego in their opinions.

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Salatut Tasbeeh

Salatut Tasbeeh is a special form of Salah that carries great rewards and blessings.

Hazrat Abdullah ibn Abbas ؓ reports that Nabi ﷺ said to Hazrat Abbas ؓ:

"O Abbas! O my uncle! Shall I present you with a gift? Should I bestow something on you? May I inform you of something greatly beneficial? Should I show you such an act which, if performed, Allah will forgive all your sins - past and future, those committed in error and those committed deliberately,

sins committed publicly or privately? That is to perform four Rakats (Salatut Tasbeeh) ... After explaining the method of performing Salatut Tasbeeh, Nabi ﷺ exclaimed:

If possible, perform this Salah daily; if you are unable to do so, then perform it once a week. If you are unable, then perform it once a month; if you are unable, then perform it once a year and if you are unable to do even this, then perform it at least once in a lifetime." (Abu Dawood)

The Tasbeeh to be recited in Salatut Tasbeeh:

سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ وَلَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ
"Subhan allahi wal hamdulillahi wa la ilaha illal laahu wallahu akbar"

The words لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ الْعَلِيِّ الْعَظِيمِ "La Hawla wala Quwwata Illa billah" may also be added at the end of the above Tasbeeh.

Method

- Before Surah Fatiha, recite the above Tasbeeh - 15 Times
- After the Surah and before Ruku - 10 Times
- In Ruku after the Tasbeeh - 10 Times
- In Qowmah (standing position after Ruku) - 10 Times
- In (first) Sajda after the Tasbeeh - 10 Times
- In Jalsa (sitting position between the two Sajdas) - 10 Times
- In (second) Sajda after the Tasbeeh - 10 Times

The above method must be applied to every Rakah.

Note:

1. In every Rakat, the Tasbeeh will be recited 75 times totaling 300 times in the entire Salah.
2. There is another method of Salatut Tasbeeh which is also correct and acceptable.

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1. Generous contributions from individuals, no matter how small, make a serious difference to the lives of so many people.

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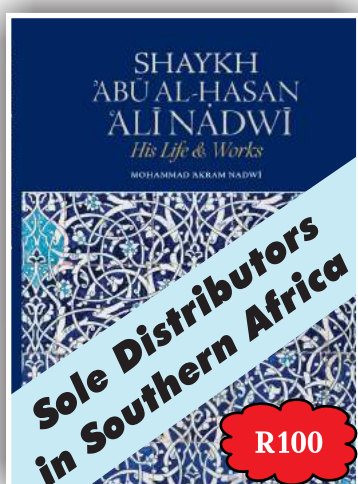
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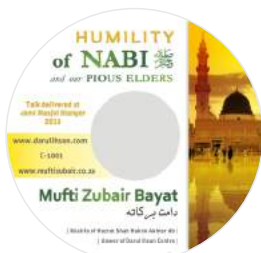
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Media Desk

Bias and negative reporting against Islam has become a very real phenomenon in the media, especially in the international press.

The Darul Ihsan Media Desk primarily monitors the media for Islamophobic (anti-Islamic) comments and anti-Islamic sentiments made in the mainstream media and interacts positively with media portals conveying the Islamic perspective.

The Media Desk contributes local, national and international news articles for the website and also focuses on news content of the Muslim world.

Also, letters commenting on broad issues are regularly sent to the editors of newspapers. Below are a few letters which were sent by the Media Desk and published in newspapers.

Cornubia offers a vision for future

From: DARUL IHSAN CENTRE
Durban

THE NEW mixed-race and mixed-income integrated human settlements development in Cornubia is a milestone in bringing people of different races and income together.

The joint government and private sector initiative is one of foresight in seeking to eliminate apartheid spatial planning by providing quality houses for

people closer to their work and doing away with racial segregation.

The creation of sustainable human settlements and the promotion of the development of vibrant communities augur well for removing the polarisation of different communities caused by apartheid.

Such human settlements must not only continue unabated, but be fast-tracked to address all communities, especially the previously disenfranchised.

Strong Condemnation of Boko Haram from SA Muslim Community

Boko Haram's mass abduction of the girls has sparked international disgust and anger.

Darul Ihsan Centre expresses its unreserved condemnation of this vile act.

The kidnapping of the girls and other belligerent actions against innocent civilians are not allowed in Islam. The activities of Boko Haram have been condemned by Muslims nationally and globally as being in violent conflict with Islamic teachings.

Our prayers are with the victims and their parents who would be undergoing unimaginable anguish and trauma. We pray that they will be released speedily and reunited

with their families. The authorities need to do everything in their power to rescue these girls and apprehend these criminals, arrest and convict them, so that the world could be rid of such people, and justice and peace could prevail. *Darul Ihsan Media Desk*

Voters need to think rationally when voting

HOPEFULLY, most – if not all – eligible voters have registered. Election campaigning is gaining momentum and we believe the general elections are a matter of genuine concern to all South Africans.

Time is of the essence and, notwithstanding the current media coverage of matters that are perhaps sensational, voters need to think rationally in making their mark.

Many voters are disenchanted and apparently many young, first-time voters are apathetic to the potential or, rather, the power of their vote.

By not voting you are not exercising the right – and the power – that you have.

No matter how many sceptics see otherwise, South Africa has marked 20 years of democracy.

The voting public has to embrace this democracy and, most importantly, not be swayed by the emotional election campaign rhetoric of political parties.

As always, a level head and thought-provoking analyses need to be made of how each one can be part of a process which can better the lives of all in a country where, inter alia, equal opportunity has become an integral part of our society.

DARUL IHSAN CENTRE
MEDIA DESK
DURBAN

Taqwa school of Excellence

Taqwa School of Excellence is an educational initiative of Darul Ihsan Centre, South Africa. It is an independent Private Remedial Islamic School that opened its doors in January 2012. Located in Mayfair West, Johannesburg, the school currently has a student roll of 20 learners with two full time educators. The learners are from different social and cultural backgrounds and education offered by the school is aimed at learners that are mentally challenged and require a special learning environment.

The school offers academic, Islamic and life skills education. Together with the full time educators, a professional team of specialist volunteers which include Occupational Therapists, Remedial Therapists, Speech and Hearing Therapists and Artists that offer their services to the school to enhance the schooling experience of each learner. Taqwa School of Excellence believes in a unified, holistic approach in addressing the needs of learners to enable them to realise their potential that Allah Ta'ala has kept within every individual.

Since its inception the institute has grown and has been warmly received by the community for the unique and excellent service that it provides. Some of the impressions of the educators and learners at the school -

"I am a teacher at Taqwa School of Excellence and I couldn't be more proud to say so. I feel that joining this school was Allah's way of showing me the more meaningful side to life. Teaching the special needs of children of Taqwa school has changed not only me as a person but also my outlook towards life." - Educator - Clinical Psychologist

"Alhamdulillah with the grace and mercy of Allah (SWT) Allah has provided a beautiful heartwarming school for my child Zainub known as Taqwa School of Excellence" - Parent

"My child has benefited and grown, socially, Islamically and academically because of the untiring and dedicated efforts of all the members of Taqwa School of Excellence." - Parent

"Alhamdulillah! All Praise is only for Allah. A world Ameerah only dreamt of or imagined became a reality. The year 2013 was the year a bright ray of sunshine burst into my daughter's life, finally Ameerah felt apart of society. Alhumdulillah.... May Allah guide and protect "Taqwa School of Excellence" - Mother of a student

"Taqwa School of Excellence is undoubtedly a unique school. Each child with their own strengths and challenges, specific needs and demands, unique personalities and individualized skills make up this special school. Every child is a different kind of flower and all together make this world a beautiful garden." - Educator



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Youth of the Ummah (YOU) is the youth wing of Darul Ihsan. It is an initiative focused on developing the Muslim youth as future leaders of the Ummah. Youth adventure camps and outdoor activities are convened with an Islamic ethos to encourage the youth to realise their potential and achieve their goals.

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Increased Love for the Wife !

A seeker wrote, 'Please, inform me whatever is most beneficial for myself. For a while now, my love for my wife has increased much. Is this something detrimental for me in my path of sulook ?

Hakimul Ummat Hazrat Maulana Ashraf Ali Thanvi (Rahimahullah) replied, 'This is precisely in accordance with the way of Rasulullah ﷺ.

May Allah bestow the blessed fruits of this on you two. The increased awareness of accountability to Allah Ta'ala (Taqwa) leads to increasing love of one's wife.'

Undoubtedly the Scourge of the 21st Century



It has left many broken hearts, shattered dreams, terminated friendships, destroyed marriages. It has caused job losses, broken homes, vehicles to be repossessed, inflicted disgrace, caused embarrassment of being arrested in public, many to spend nights in a prison cell, and the list goes on..., the question is what could be so devastating that it has caused so much of havoc in the lives of so many?

It is called drug abuse. Drug abuse has become the scourge of the 21st century. The sad reality is that drug abuse has taken the South African Muslim community by storm. Drug abuse is the extreme desire to acquire and use increasing amounts of one or many different substances

to attain temporary pleasure or relaxation.

Drug abuse inevitably becomes drug addiction, which destroys the life of an individual, his worldly life and more so his Deen. Many an addict has openly described how in the height of their addiction, they felt their Iman slipping away from them. Extensive education needs to take place to protect our youth and adults form this terrible habit. In the coming issues more on drugs and what we can do to prtict our community will be discussed. May Allah Ta'ala protect us, our children and the Ummah from this evil Ameen.

A Beautiful response to an Abusive Insult

Hazrat Abu Zar Al Ghifari ؓ was no ordinary man; he was an illustrious Sahabi of Rasulullah ﷺ. Once a man verbally abused him. He responded, "Brother! There is a steep and rocky road between Jannah and me. If I pass through this road safely, then your insult means nothing to me. However, if I fail to cross that path and am prevented from reaching Jannah then I am worthy of much worse insults than what you have heaped on me."

Lesson: Let us get our priorities right. Our focus should be on the Akhirah. The Akhirah is the final destination. It should be our greatest concern. If we make the Akhirah our gretest concern, we will

not be distracted by petty issues. We will easily dismiss the silly insults of people and towards the Akhirah.

On the contrary, if we do not focus on our real destination or if we get offended because of our ego, little comments will deeply affect us and we will become sensitive to what and how people say things. We will become suspicious of people and sometimes over-react whence really there is no substance in the matter.

Therefore, let us ignore side issues and keep our gaze on the way ahead. This, Insha Allah will afford us much happiness in this world and the Akhirah.

(Wit, Humour and Wisdom)

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Sajdatut Tilawah

There are approximately 14 places in the Noble Qur'an where it is Wajib (compulsory) for a person to perform a Sajdah when the respective verse is heard or recited. Generally, the Sajdah Tilawah verses are marked in the Qur'an.

Hazrat Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه narrates that Rasulullah ﷺ said, "Whenever the son of Adam recites a verse of Sajdah and then makes Sajdah, Shaitan flees the place in tears. He

shouts out, 'Woe unto me! The son of Adam was commanded with Sajdah and he made Sajdah, thereby gaining entry into Jannah. I was commanded with Sajdah and I refused. As a result I will end up in Jahannam'." (Sahih Muslim).

Sajdatut Tilawah should be made immediately upon recitation of the verse. If this is not possible then the Sajdah should not be prolonged or delayed unnecessarily.



Darul Ihsan Fatwa Dept.

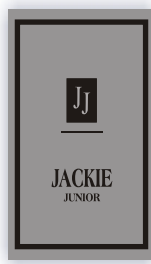
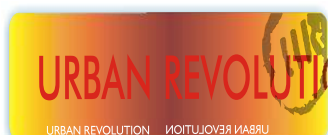
The Fatwa Department of Darul Ihsan provides a wide range of services such as the issuing of rulings, verdicts, research, mediation, estate distribution and planning, general advice, etc.

The Fatwa Department receives an average of 400 questions per month - mostly via email - from around the globe. Every reply is checked and approved by at least two Muftis from the three Muftis that serve in the department.

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The Latecomer to Salah - Who is a Masbooq ?

A person who joins the Imam after the Ruku of the first Rak'at is known as a Masbooq. The Masbooq should continue the Salah by following the Imam normally to the end. After the Imam turns to say the second Salam, the Masbooq should stand up and complete the missed Rak'at/s.

Missed Rak'at/s should be completed in the following manner:

- If the Masbooq missed one Rak'at he should stand up, read Thana, Ta'awwuz, Tasmiyah, Surah Fatiha and Surah and thereafter complete the Salah.
- If the Masbooq missed two Rak'ats in Fajr, Zuh, Asr or Esha, he should complete both the Rak'ats by reciting Surah Fatiha and another Surah in both the Rak'ats. In the first Rak'at he should read the Thanaa, Ta'awwuz and Tasmiyyah also.
- If the Masbooq has missed two Rak'ats in Maghrib Salah, then after completing the first Rak'at (as mentioned above) he should sit in Qa'dah, read Tashahhud and then stand up for the second Rak'at. After reciting Surah Fatiha and another Surah, he will complete the Salah as normal.
- If three Rak'ats were missed in Zuh, Asr or Esha, the Masbooq should perform first Rak'at as mentioned above, then sit in Qa'dah, read Tashahhud and then stand up for the second Rak'at.
- In the second Rak'at he should recite Surah Fatiha and another Surah, complete the second Rak'at and stand up for the third Rak'at without sitting for Tashahhud. In the third Rak'at he should recite Surah Fatiha only and complete the Salah as normal.
- If a person has missed all the Rak'ats of any Salah, then he should repeat the entire Salah after the Imam has said the Salam except that he should not raise his hands to say Allahu Akbar (Takbir) in the first Rak'at.

NB. A Rak'at is obtained (not missed) if one has joined the Imam before the Imam stands up from Ruku

Q & A

Q Is it permissible for a Muslim woman to work in a corporate environment to supplement the household income?

A Ideally a Muslim woman should not forsake the comfort and confines of her home to work. If a dire need arises for a woman to work or leave her home, she should do so with extreme caution and complete adherence to the laws of Hijab.

If there are financial constraints then she may supplement this need by working from the confines of her home. The corporate environment poses many challenges for a woman and should be avoided at all costs. In the event of her being in such an environment every caution should be taken to be on her guard from sin and vice and continuously seek forgiveness from Allah Ta'ala.

Q Is it permissible for a Muslim woman to become a flight attendant? The salary is quite lucrative and it is an opportunity to see the world'. However, it entails travelling without a Mahram. Please advise.

A Every facet of a Muslim's life is governed by the Shariah (laws of Islam). Involving oneself in a career that requires one to deliberately break the command of Allah Ta'ala is detrimental to one's Iman. To expose oneself as an airhostess is contrary to the values of modesty and shame. Being a flight attendant will require one to breach the laws of Shariah and will ultimately engulf one in wrong doing. While a person may gain some paltry benefit of the world, one stands to lose heavily in the real treasures and pleasures of the hereafter.

Q What is the ruling with regards to having the Azan, Quranic verse/s, Zikr, Durood, etc. as the ring tone on one's cellular phone?

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Q & A

A The purpose of a ringtone is to notify one of an incoming call. Using the sacred words from the Quran, Azan, Zikr etc. as a ringtone is inappropriate and disrespectful. Be simple and set your phone on a normal ring tone.

Q Is it permissible for a female to read romance novels when she is in the state of haiz?

A Reading romance novels in any state leads to the contamination of the heart and mind. Reading such novels arouses base desires and lust and may lead one to fulfilling these in unnatural and haram ways. A fictitious mindset is developed through such literature which impacts negatively on ones future life, marriage and relationship. A Muslim should value time and spend it in reading good literature.

Fasting Q&A

Q Is it permissible to commence the fast in a state wherein one requires Farz Ghusl?

A Fard Ghusl should not be delayed unnecessarily. However, if one commences the fast in the state where one requires a Fardh Ghusal the fast will be valid. A person should at least wash the hands, gargle the mouth, and rinse the nose thoroughly before Sehri.

Q Does the use of an injection or a drip break the fast?

A The use of an injection or drip does not nullify the fast.

Q Does vomiting break the fast?

A The fast will break if:
a. A person vomited a mouthful involuntarily and swallowed it or a part of it by his own volition.
b. If one had voluntarily (induced) vomited a mouthful whether swallowed or not. NB: A "mouthful of vomit" is defined as such an amount that one cannot hold back in one's mouth without difficulty.

NB: A "mouthful of vomit" is defined as such a measure (volume) that one cannot hold back in one's mouth without difficulty

Q Can you use eye drops whilst fasting?

A It is permissible to use eye-drops whilst fasting. The fast will not be nullified even if the taste of it is felt in the mouth.

Q If the nose begins to bleed whilst fasting, will the fast break?

A The fast will not break by mere nose bleeding. If the blood flowed down the nasal passage and entered the throat then it will be seen whether the blood was more than the saliva or less than it. If the blood was more than the saliva or equal to it the fast will break. If the blood was less than the saliva then the fast will not break.

Q Is it permissible for a fasting person to scent the Musjid through burning loban or any other incense sticks?

A It is makrooh for a fasting person to burn incense in the Musjid or anywhere else, due to the possibility of smoke inhalation. Inhaling the smoke intentionally will nullify the fast.

Q Whilst fasting, if the gums begin to bleed and the blood flows down the throat will the fast break?

A If the blood which was swallowed with the saliva was more than the saliva or equal to it, then the fast will break and only Qadha will be Wajib. If the blood was less than the saliva then the fast will not break.

Q If, whilst fasting, water goes down the throat when gargling the mouth or rinsing the nose in Wudhu or Ghusl will the fast break?

A If one was mindful that he was fasting at the time and water seeped down the throat or nostril, the fast will break. If one was unmindful that he was fasting, the fast will not break.

Q Can I use ear-drops whilst fasting? Will it break the fast?

A Usage of ear-drops will break the fast.

Q Is it compulsory for a Musafir (Shari traveller) to fast whilst on a journey?

A It is not compulsory for a Musafir to fast whilst on a journey. However, if the Musafir is able to fast during his journey then this is more rewarding. The missed fast must be made-up after Ramadan.

Q A person intends travelling during the course of the day and at the time of Subh Sadiq (when the fast commences) while he is still in his hometown. Is it permissible for him not to fast?

A It is compulsory for a person who is present in his hometown at the time of Subh Sadiq to fast. Since he only intends travelling during the course of the day the concession of not fasting does not apply to him. Hence, if he does not keep the fast he will be sinful.

Q I understand that it is not permissible to smoke cigarettes etc. whilst fasting. However, is it permissible to take the e-cigarette whilst fasting?

A Using the e-cigarette causes a sensation of some vapour/substance going down the throat. This will also break the fast.

Q Is it permissible to brush the teeth with toothpaste whilst fasting?

A Brushing with toothpaste whilst fasting is Makrooh. However, if the paste does not go down the throat it will not break the fast.

Q Is the fast valid if we continue eating till the Azan of Fajr is called out?

A Generally in South Africa, the Azan is not called out precisely when Sehri ends. Rather the Azan is called out approximately 5-10 minutes after Sehri time has lapsed. This is contrary to the Middle East and other countries where the Azan is called out immediately upon expiry of Sehri. Therefore, if one intentionally eats beyond the Sehri time indicated on the local calendars his/her fast will not be valid.

Q If someone unknowingly eats beyond the time of Sehri will the fast be valid?

A If someone unintentionally or unknowingly eats beyond the time of Sehri the fast will not be valid.

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A Couple's Oath!

This incident took place in the time of Imam Abu Haneefah (Rahimahullah). There was a married couple very much attached to each other.'

One whilst sitting and talking casually, the wife made some offensive remark. This led to an argument. The husband became upset. He swore, "By Allah, I will never speak to you unless you speak to me!" Equally upset, she too swore that she would never speak to him unless he spoke to her. True to their oaths, none spoke to the other. Each became a total stranger for the other. One faced this way, the other the other way. But for how long?

It is said that time is a great healer. Soon, they began to regret having sworn such oaths. Both missed each other. They yearned to speak to each other, but how? No one seemed to know what to do.

When the man could bear it no more, he decided to approach Hazrat Sufyan Thauri (Rahimahullah). Being a great Alim, he could show them some way out. After narrating the whole incident he pleaded, "Hazrat, please help us solve this problem without violating our oaths."

Hazrat Sufyan (Rahimahullah) said, "There is no easy way out. One of you will have to break the oath and

give the Kaffarah (expiation for breaking an oath)."

Disappointed the man then went to Imam Abu Haneefah (Rahimahullah). After hearing his story, he said, "There is no need for Kaffarah. Go and talk to your wife. You will not be violating the oath." Happily, the man went home and reconciled with his wife.

When Hazrat Sufyan Thauri (Rahimahullah) heard about this he approached Imam Abu Haneefah reprimanding him, "Why do you give wrong Fatwas to people?"

The Imam summoned the man and asked him to relate the incident. When he did, the Imam said, "I stand by my ruling. I believe it is correct."

Hazrat Sufyan Thauri (Rahimahullah) asked, "How? Explain!"

The learned Imam explained, "The husband said 'until you do not speak to me, I will not speak to you.' As soon as the wife swore similarly, she had in fact spoken to him. Now if he speaks to her he will not be breaking his oath, so there will be no Kaffarah on him. Similarly, the wife will not be breaking her oath if the husband speaks to her. Therefore, there is no Kaffarah on anyone of them."

Amazed by this reasoning, Hazrat Sufyan Thauri (Rahimahullah) congratulated the Imam profusely. (Wit, Humour and Wisdom)

Save yourself from the evil of Dajjal

Hazrat Abu Darda ؓ reported that Rasulullah ﷺ said :

"Whoever commits to memory the first ten Ayat of the Surah Al-Kahf, will be protected from (the trial of) Dajjal." (Sahih Muslim)

In another narration, Rasulullah ﷺ said:

"Whoever commits to memory the last ten Ayat of Surah Al-Kahf, he will be protected from (the trial of) Dajjal."

Dajjal will appear before Qiyamah. Allah Ta'ala will give him some supernatural powers, the manifestation of which will shake the faith of many people. All Prophets warned their people against him. Our Nabi ﷺ also warned us against him and ordered us to

guard ourselves from his mischief and to seek refuge of Allah from his harm.

Hazrat Ibn 'Umar ؓ narrates : "The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

'Whoever reads Surah Kahf on the day of Jumu'ah (Friday), a light will emanate for him from beneath his feet to the clouds of the sky, which will be a light for him on the Day of Resurrection, and he will be forgiven (his sins) between the two Fridays.'

It is related from Abu Sa'eed al-Khudri ؓ : "Whoever reads Surah Al-Kahf on the night of Jumu'ah (Friday), will have a light that will stretch between him and the Ancient House (the Ka'bah)." (Daarimi)

"Whoever reads Surat Al-Kahf on the day of Jumu'ah (Friday), will have a light that will shine from him from one Friday to the next." (Bayhaqi)

The Surah may be read during the night or the day of Jumu'ah. The night of Jumu'ah starts from sunset on Thursday, and the day of Jumu'ah ends at sunset of the next day.

Revive the great Sunnah of our beloved Nabi ﷺ

"Abu Huraira ؓ narrates that Rasulullah ﷺ said:

'Was it not for my fear of imposing a difficulty on my Ummah I would have ordered that the Miswaak be used for every Salaat.' (Bukhari)

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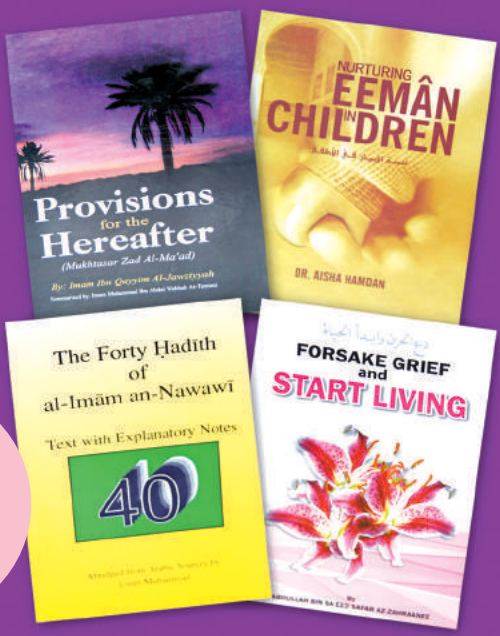
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Qatar Urges Visitors to Dress Modestly

DOHA - Preserving modesty in the gas-rich Gulf state of Qatar, a new modesty campaign urging tourists and foreign residents to respect the Islamic values and cover up is due to kick off ahead of Muslims' fasting month of Ramadan.

"If you are in Qatar, you are one of us. Help us preserve Qatar's culture and values, please dress modestly in public places," reads a leaflet handed out as part of the campaign cited by UK's The Independent.

Titled "reflect your respect", the modesty campaign will be launched

online, making appeals to visitors through Twitter and Instagram.

Besides, leaflets that urge visitors to dress modestly will be distributed accompanied by diagrams of the unaccepted cloths.

Women are not allowed to wear short dresses, sleeveless clothing and crop tops.

Shorts and vest tops revealing the chest are banned for men visiting Qatar, the diagram shows.

Under the Qatari law, modest dress code is preserved and "obscene" attire is punished by a fine and up to six-month jail term.

SA Palestine Lobby fights on

CAPE TOWN -The Department of International Relations and Co-operations (Dirco) engaged with civil society at the forefront of Palestinian activism in the country.

The seminar held in Cape Town on Friday focused on efforts undertaken by the South African community, in its hopes of seeing a free Palestine.

At the seminar the Ambassador for Palestine in South Sudan, Dr Samer Taha, addressed the audience of activists and local NGO's on the many injustices done toward the Palestinian people.



Taha spoke passionately of the incorrect and highly misinformed mainstream media's role against the plight of the Palestinian people.

According to Taha, most media houses in the world are owned by Zionists and therefore, the way in which Palestine is being portrayed in mainstream media is both disheartening and unjust to Palestinians.

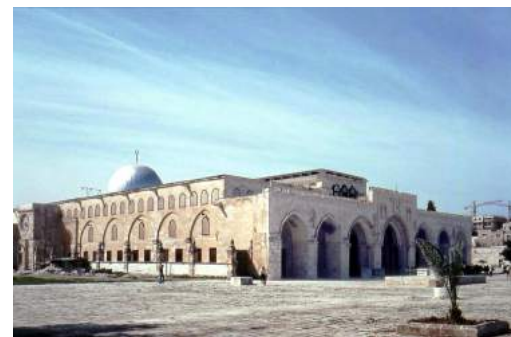
No Middle East Peace without Jerusalem

ANKARA - Turkey's Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu has said, those people who do not understand the importance of Jerusalem and Palestinian rights there are "attacking the conscience of humanity."

Speaking in the opening ceremony of "International Meeting on the Question of Jerusalem" in the Turkish capital, Ankara, on Monday as part of the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, Davutoglu said there are three steps to be aware of when discussing Jerusalem.

"We should be aware of the areas of ethical and ontological, cultural and political responsibility for Jerusalem," said Davutoglu.

"We are witnessing occupation of Palestinian lands since 1948, as well as Al-Aqsa Mosque. The international community should



ensure justice and the rule of law through different platforms," said Davutoglu.

"If the UN decisions are not being implemented, then why they were taken in the first place?"

Israel, which annexed East Jerusalem in 1980, says that the entire city is the capital of Israel and must remain under Israeli sovereignty. This claim is not recognized by the international community.

Davutoglu also recalled that Al-Aqsa Mosque is a sacred site for Muslims and cannot be occupied.

Bosnia Floods Unearth New Mass Grave

SARAJEVO - Nearly two decades after the 1990s war in Bosnia, new images of the grim war appeared after a new mass grave containing corpses of Muslim Bosniak victims with their hands tied behind their backs has been unearthed by the country's devastating floods.

"We unearthed four complete bodies whose hands were tied behind their backs and two incomplete bodies today," Lejla Cengic, spokeswoman of the government's Institute for Missing Persons, told Reuters.



The secret mass grave has been first discovered by electricity workers who were repairing power lines on the outskirts of the central town of Doboj that was completely submerged with the floods.

The victims are believed to be among 16 Muslims who were killed by Bosnian Serb forces in the area.

Islam 2nd Largest Religion in 20 US States

WASHINGTON - New data released from the US census authority has found that Islam is the second largest religion in twenty American states after Christianity that appeared as the dominant faith across the country.

The new data was released by the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies, which

conducts a US Religion Census every 10 years.

According to the Washington Post, Islam came as the largest non-Christian faith in 20 states, mostly in the Midwest and South.

On the other hand, Judaism had the most followers in other 15 states, mostly in the Northeast while Hindus came in the second place only in Arizona and Delaware.

Cypriot Mosque opens after 51 Years



NICOSIA - After 51 years of closing its doors, a mosque in the Greek side of Cyprus was opened in June, when Turkish Cypriot Grand Mufti offered prayers

as part of the Swedish Embassy-prompted interfaith dialogue.

"Inshallah (with God's will) we are going to offer our prayers in this Turkish quarter in this mosque," Turkish Cypriot Grand Mufti Dr Talip Atalay said at the mosque inauguration, InCyprus website reported.

Atalay added that while some elements were absent from the mosque, they would not be focused on as "what is most important right now is that we are here and we can pray".



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What's Happening at Darul Ihsan Centre

Youth Adventure Day a success

Youth of the Ummah ('Y.O.U.') - the Youth Division of Darul Ihsan Centre - held a successful outdoor 'Adventure Day' programme for school-going boys on Wednesday, 30 April 2014 at 'Clubventure' and 'Hola Trails' in Ballito in KZN.

Forty five boys aged between 12 and 18 years participated in a programme which entailed team building, Islamic guidance and outdoor activities such as an obstacle course and mountain biking.



The activities of the day also included informal advices (Islamic guidance) given to the boys. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the terrain of the obstacle course and the mountain biking trail. Zuhri and Asr Salah was performed at the venue and lunch and refreshments was provided for all. The day's programme is one of many which 'Y.O.U.' plans at different times in the year.

www.you.org.za

First Blanket Distribution 2014 in Ficksburg

The Muslim Empowerment Fund (MEF) of Darul Ihsan Centre, began its annual 'Sponsor-a-Blanket' campaign in Ficksburg on Tuesday, 29 April 2014. The distribution of blankets was done in conjunction with both Ulama and business community members of Ficksburg.

300 blankets were distributed to mostly the elderly in the area and stationery packs were also given to children who were present. Snacks and refreshments were given to all those that attended the programme.

After the distribution the Ficksburg community facilitated an interview for members of the MEF team on Setsoto Radio (93.7 FM) where they



were given an opportunity of speaking on the activities of Darul Ihsan Centre.

The MEF continues its sustained programme of relief and poverty alleviation among the poor in our country and we kindly request your continued Duas and support for these initiatives.

'Daughters of Ummah' enjoy day of Learning and Recreation

On Saturday, 24 May 2014 'DOU' hosted its second programme - 'A Day of Learning and Recreation' - an activity day of learning and recreation for girls at the NMJ Hall, Durban.

With ninety registered participants - between 12 and 20 years old - from Durban and surrounding areas participated in the programme. Twelve DOU volunteers co-ordinated and facilitated activities of the programme.

Various team-building exercises, group challenges and target-shooting (archery) programmes were convened in the days programme for the keen participants.



A mother of one of the participants said, "May Allah Ta'ala reward you and your team for hosting this programme. My daughter had an enjoyable and an unforgettable experience which was most inspiring."

www.dou.org.za

'Made-In-Heaven' Marriage Course

Darul Ihsan Centre's 'Social Department' conducted a marriage education programme on Saturday, 10 May 2014 at its Gem Towers office in Overport.

Two separate programmes were held for females and males in the Centre's on-going marriage education drive.

The programmes were well received and encompassed a wide range of discussions pertaining to marriage and a Q & A session which dealt with specific situations which arise in marriage.

Marriage education has become essential as couples and newlyweds continue to face testing challenges in their bid to live a trouble-free marriage.

The programmes, which are held regularly in different areas, are interactive and allow for input and questions.

Basic Counselling Course Completed

Darul Ihsan Centre held a two day course on basic counseling for sisters on 6 and 8 May 2014 at the NMJ Islamic Centre.

The course drew tremendous interest from many sisters eager to develop their counseling abilities and skills in order to serve their communities.

Based on the ethos that 'Islam is a way of life' the course aims was to empower participants on how to combine spiritual solutions to life's challenges with traditional counseling, based on love and fear of Allah and the duty to fulfill our responsibility as the servants of Allah.

All participants were presented with a certificates and further on-going counseling programmes will be conducted as a follow up to the basic course.

Annual Iftar Provision

Iftar arrangements are made for certain selected venues in the greater Durban area where a genuine need is established. The Iftar is served as a complete meal that includes savoury platters and other delicacies. This is a great opportunity to

feed the fasting and reap the rewards that are promised.

To contribute please contact the Darul Ihsan offices or do a direct Lillah deposit with reference "Iftar Programme 1435".

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Darul Ihsan conducts presentations for Sri Lanka Delegation

An Ulama delegation from Darul Ihsan was invited by visiting Ulama and professionals from Sri Lanka for talks and interaction on the activities and projects of the centre. Three presentations were done with the visitors and some important discussions and ideas were shared.

Presentations detailed the social issues that are being faced by Ulama in South Africa and the various

services and activities of the Centre in combating these challenges. A comprehensive presentation on the relief, humanitarian and empowerment projects of Darul Ihsan generated good discussion of how the Ulama groups can work together in their respective countries.

Subsequently, Darul Ihsan received a note of appreciation from the Ameer of Jamiatul Ulama Sri Lanka and an invitation to visit Sri Lanka.

Please give me some hope or at least a hearing...



I am an elderly Muslim lady - a 75 year old pensioner to be precise.

My circumstances were such that I had to take loans to pay my rent. In a difficult world of rising living costs with no income besides my pension it was purely a matter of survival. My family are not interested in my problems as they have their own lot to deal with. I didn't know what to do or who to go to - I was desperate.

Sitting at the bus stop opposite Peter Mokaba/Ridge Road, Overport - with not even the bus fare I needed to get home - my gaze fell upon a bold signboard that read "Darul Ihsan Centre". Taking a closer look, it said 'Islamic Services' - I look deliberated the worthiness of giving myself any hope of being heard or helped.

However, I consoled myself that even if I didn't receive assistance from the organisation, at least somebody might listen to my problems. I took the short walk to the offices of Darul Ihsan Centre. On entry I was politely greeted and requested to take a seat. After a short while I was called into a consultation with a Maulana - who attentively listened to my every word - I was given some documentation to fill out and return upon completion. Despite this I gave myself no chance of moving forward or receiving help. At this point I would like to mention something which I will never forget.

After being handed the forms I was given some money to buy some food (as I hadn't eaten all day) and money for transport. This gesture alone from Darul Ihsan Centre made me feel that somebody in the world cared for an elderly lady who had nobody else to turn to.

A few days later I returned to the office with the completed forms and was rendered assistance.

After many years of living with debt I felt as if a huge burden was removed from me - a burden which caused me daily stress. I have no words to thank Darul Ihsan! Subsequently, I sought more help from the organisation and they obliged.

I thought that since I have some sewing skills I could approach the organisation to consider arranging for me an over-locking sewing machine so that I could empower myself and supplement the meagre pension I was receiving.

Once again, I approached the organisation - albeit with some reservation whether I would receive help or not. On consultation I was requested to present a business plan and acquire some quotes for an over-locking sewing machine.

Within a week of me handing in the paperwork Darul Ihsan Centre delivered the machine to me! I was so excited - I couldn't even imagine that at the age of seventy five I would receive such a wonderful gift - a gift that would change my life.

Today, with the extra income I make as a seamstress I manage to maintain myself without having to take loans and, most importantly, I don't feel hopeless anymore - I truly feel empowered.

Alhamdulillah, I am most grateful to Allah Ta'ala that at my age I am still able to use my skills to maintain myself and, of course, not forgetting Darul Ihsan Centre for the help they gave me to become self-sufficient and restore my dignity and faith in humanity.

I express my deepest gratitude to the Centre

Shukran
Sister in Islam
Z M

Collection of Kajoor Pits

To encourage Zikr of Allah at home, Darul Ihsan Centre is presenting a Zikr container that includes +/-360 treated kajoor pits, a cloth (to place the beads on) and a laminated card of the prescribed duas.

This project is known as "Zikr @ home" and is ideal for families and businesses.

Durban

Darul Ihsan Centre

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We call on you to please accumulate your kajoor pits this Ramadan and forward to/call Darul Ihsan offices.



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10 Quick Steps To Better Ramadan

1. Constantly ask Allah Ta'ala for ability (tafweeq) to benefit from the blessings of Ramadan daily. This should begin in earnest from now.
2. Make a firm determination to abstain from all forms of sin and vice and to avoid frequenting places where sin is committed. Special care should be taken to abstain from the vices of the eyes, ears and tongue as these are the tributaries to the heart and mind.
3. Try to lessen ones mundane engagements and free one's time for solitude, prayers and company of the pious Ulama.
4. Make a point of dedicating some time of the day or night to sit in the company of pious Ulama and seek their advices and counsel.
5. Utilise the auspicious month of Ramadan to build and imbibe the Sunnah lifestyle. Memorize Masnoon Duas for particular occasions and recite them with regularity.
6. Use and manage one's time in a frugal manner. Free oneself from

frivolities, futile discussions and activities and occupy oneself in the service of others and in seeking Islamic knowledge.

7. Start reading books and articles on the Ramadan of our pious Ulama and seniors. In this there is ample motivation.
8. Become cognisant of the actions of the heart. Do everything with a clear intention and purpose.
9. Cleanse oneself from the harmful traits of anger, arrogance, vulgar speech, hatred and ill feelings for others. Develop patience, humility, gratitude and sincerity.
10. Adopt a practical timetable for one's activities and remain steadfast upon it. Consult with one's Shaykh or Mentor in this regard.

If these brief guidelines are adopted with zeal and sincerity there is great hope that Allah will bestow one with the true rewards of Ramadan and facilitate a bond with His servant for life.

On behalf of Darul Ihsan we wish the Muslim Ummah a spiritually rewarding Ramadan.

Ramadan of Sainly Elders

A Day in the Ramadan of Faqeehul Ummah Hazrat Mufti Mahmood Gangohi (Rahimahullah)

This is a synopsis of a typical day in Ramadan of Hazrat Mufti Sahib (RA). The idea is for us to use this as a means of motivation and encouragement as it gives us an indication of how much a person can achieve if one is serious about earning reward and gaining proximity to Allah Ta'ala.

Hazrat would wake up at about 2:30am and engage in Nafl Salah till 3:30am followed by a light Sehri which consisted of a few morsels. He would then continue with Nafl Salah until Fajr. Hazrat would then rest a while after Fajr and Ishraq and wake up at about 7:30am. Hazrat would then continue with lengthy Nafl Salah. It was amazing how he would muster the strength to perform such lengthy Salah despite old age.

Hazrat remained engaged in Salah with complete attention until about 9:30am. Thereafter, he would listen to the recitation of a few Huffaz and would dictate the answers to his correspondence and Fatawa. This would continue till about 11:00am. Thereafter, for about 30 minutes

someone would read from Fatawa Mahmoodiyah. Hazrat (RA) would listen and make necessary amendments.

At 11:30am, the book Al-I'tidal used to be read collectively for the Mu'takifeen (those in Itikaf). This continued till about 12:00noon.

Thereafter, time was allocated for those who wished to consult privately with Hazrat.

After Zuhr, Hazrat (RA) would join the Khatam of Aayat-e-Kareema and collective dua. Those who wished to make Bay'at with Hazrat would be allowed to do so.

Hazrat (RA) would then engage in Zikrullah and would focus on those making Zikr. Thereafter, he would rest for a while. After the Asr Azan, Hazrat (RA) would perform his sunnats of Asr and then engage in tilawat of Quran.

Adapted and edited from Life Of Hazrat Faqihul Ummat (R)

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