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The world is desperate for love and mercy !

Don't give me a scissors, give me a needle!"

Sultanul-Awliya, Hazrat Nizamuddin Awliya (R) is among the most renowned and revered saints of India. A huge railway station, the Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station, and an entire colony is named after him in New Delhi, referred to as the Hazrat Nizamuddin colony.

On one occasion, one of his disciples brought a scissors as a gift for Hazrat Nizamuddin (R). He returned it saying: "Do not give me a scissors as a gift, which is only good for cutting and shearing, but rather give me a needle, that is used to join." Obviously it was meant in a figurative sense.

The Awliya Allah (saints) were paragons and embodiments of love, mercy, kindness, sympathy and compassion towards the general public. It is through the warmth of that love and mercy that Islam spread and flourished, until thousands upon thousands were salvaged from the fire of hell and found their path towards paradise. If this is the case of the Awliya Allah, one can well imagine the love and mercy that the Ambiya ﷺ must have possessed?!

Imagine then what must have been the level of love, mercy, kindness and compassion of Hazrat Muhammed ﷺ, whom Allah has referred to in the Quran as 'Mercy unto the Universe'?!

The believer is an embodiment of love and mercy

Hazrat Muhammed ﷺ said, "The believer is a person of love and there is no good in the one who doesn't love or is not loved!" (Tabrani). In this amazing Hadith, an outstanding quality that defines the personality of the Believers has been mentioned - the quality of giving love and the quality of receiving love.

Furthermore it has been stated that one who neither gives love nor receives love is one who is bereft and devoid of all goodness. The giving of love requires a generous, clean and open heart, otherwise love will not emerge from such a heart. And when a person is the owner of such an open and generous heart, then automatically such a heart will attract the love of other hearts, like one magnet attracts another magnet. But the heart that does not have this quality, repels other hearts, because such a heart will be a closed, mean,

dirty, dry and hard heart. Obviously nobody is attracted to such a heart!

Hatred will destroy everything

This is the lesson of love that a world so full of hatred is so desperately in need of. Today we live in a world that is dominated by hatred and harshness. In all directions the atmosphere is one of hatred and detestation.

This hatred has wrecked communities, countries and nations. It is the 'scissors' that is cutting mankind into pieces and generating suspicion and animosity between families, communities and citizens of countries and continents. This hatred silently fuels a fire that is about to erupt and burn and destroy everything around it.

Destructive role of hate mongers

Unfortunately hate mongers are found in all segments of society. Hate mongers gain instant publicity and attract many people. The main reason is because they manipulate the fear factor and sensationalise in their hate speeches. Hatred is spread and

propagated by politicians for short term gains, by the media for fulfilling the agenda of its masters and funders, by academics who justify it through elaborate but baseless arguments and by the general public who take their cue from their leaders, their media and their intellectuals. The result is a world that is cruel, callous and heartless, devoid of mercy and love.

A Muslim should display love and mercy

In a recent lecture at Darul Ihsan Centre, the President of Jamiatul Ulama of India, Moulana Sayyid Arshad Madani emphasised, "In today's world the effort of the Ulama in particular and the Muslim public should be to promote the proper picture of Islam and to display love and mercy to mankind in whichever way possible."

There is an urgent need for all peace loving, sober-minded leaders and people to spread the message of love, peace and mercy in a world that is being engulfed in the flames of hatred! Become 'needles' of love, rather than 'scissors' of hate!

*Mufti Zubair Bayat
Ameer of Darul Ihsan Centre*

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The Value of Humanity in Islam

By Maulana Muhammad Saleem Dhorat (MZ)

Atrocities committed in the name of Islam - such as those in Paris - make headlines, perpetuate misconceptions regarding Islam and Muslims and infuse tensions in our society

I believe all of us are duty-bound to contribute to efforts that clear these misconceptions and misunderstandings and share the true nature of this beautiful religion.

The value of life

In the light of Islam's teachings of mercy and tolerance, it is impossible that oppression or the taking of innocent life is permitted in any circumstance. The life of every human, Muslim and non-Muslim, is equally precious and sacred. The value of life is captured in the following verse of the Glorious Qur'an: "...Whoever kills a person not in retaliation for a person killed, nor (as a punishment) for spreading disorder on the earth, is as if he has killed the whole of humankind, and whoever saves the life of a person is as if he has saved the life of the whole of humankind..."(5:32)

As Muslims, we value human life - irrespective of geography, race and gender. We do not distinguish between the poor and the wealthy, women from men, the less able from the able bodied, as a life is a life, hence sacred and precious. Therefore, a loss of life in any corner of the world is a cause of grief and sorrow for every true Muslim.

During such moments we pray to Allah Ta'ala, the Creator, that He grants everyone guidance and fills this world with peace and security. For those who have suffered loss of life, may Allah Ta'ala grant them patience and courage. If families have lost their breadwinner, may Allah Ta'ala safeguard them from want and poverty. May Allah Ta'ala grant relief to all from oppression and give every human the good fortune to live in peace and prosperity.

When the hearts and minds of humans become corrupt, be they Muslims or non-Muslims, then they no longer remain human. In their eyes, the worth of a human life becomes devalued and no thought is given to who is being killed, how many are killed and how the lives of innocent people, children, the elderly and women are destroyed. There is total contempt for humanity.

We pray that Allah Ta'ala grant those involved in killing innocent people - whether they are individuals, groups or governments - the essence of humanity and the ability to recognise the value of human life.

Developing a proper understanding of Islam

Following the tragic events in Paris, there is a significant focus on Islam and Muslims. At this juncture I would urge my fellow citizens, Muslims and non-Muslims, to learn the teachings of Islam from practising Muslims with knowledge;



not from the media. There are those in the mainstream media who have not studied Islam in the correct manner and therefore do not appreciate the sciences of Islam and the relationship between them. Many times they comment on verses of the Qur'an and Ahadith which are out of context, as they are unaware of the method of how to interpret them and as a result reach incorrect conclusions and cause confusion. It is unfortunate that non-Muslims and ill-informed Muslims also express views based on their own interpretation, without the appropriate requisite knowledge. This has led to the distortion of Islam resulting in the misconceptions we see today amongst the general public, with regards to Islam and its teachings.

I therefore urge all Muslims to study and embrace the teachings of Islam and live their lives according to it. We need to deepen our understanding of the true essence of Islam by benefitting from reliable Ulama and reading of authentic literature. This will enable us to spread the correct message to others and explain the true qualities, attributes and characteristics of Islam. We must also

ensure our individual mistakes do not tarnish and distort the image of Islam and Muslims. We must all study Islam to the extent that we are able to present and explain, without any hesitation, the Islamic point of view regarding topics that are commonly misunderstood by non-Muslims.

Bringing a change

We also need to bring a positive change in our lives by wholeheartedly turning to Allah Ta'ala and repenting sincerely from the disobedience to Allah Ta'ala. Not only have we neglected our Deen on a personal level, we have also not shared its beauty with others, a major negligence on our part. In our current circumstances Tawbah and Istighfar will be extremely beneficial as it is stated in a hadith: "Whoever holds fast to Istighfar, Allah will make for him a way out from every difficulty and will grant him relief from every anxiety and will grant him sustenance from where he expects not." (Abu Dawood)

Let us refrain from every act of disobedience to Allah Ta'ala and become firm on our belief and worship. It is only when we become the personification of Islam through our dealings (mu'amalat), social conduct (mu'asharat) and good character (husn akhlaq), that the true merciful and tolerant character of Islam will be observed and appreciated by all.

May Allah Ta'ala grant us all the ability to practice

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World News

South African academics pledge support for boycott of Israel

Over 200 South African academics have signed a declaration committing to supporting the rights of the Palestinian people. Expressing concern with "Israel's illegal occupation of Palestinian land" and "the intolerable human rights violations that it inflicts on all sections of the Palestinian people", the academics pledge not to accept invitations to visit Israeli academic institutions; not to act as referees for Israeli institutions; and not to participate in conferences organised or funded by Israeli institutions.

Signatories include professors from universities across the country, as well as academics from South African research institutes and think tanks. Their declaration follows a similar commitment by 600 academics in the UK which was issued in October.



The human rights and Palestine solidarity organization BDS South Africa commends the South African academics who initiated the statement and all those who have undertaken this commitment to the academic boycott of Israel.

Turkey building Central Asia's largest mosque

Turkey has been building a \$25-million, 6,000-capacity Mosque in the Kyrgyz capital, Bishkek - it will be the largest Mosque in Central Asia.

Ismail Palakoglu, the Director-General of Turkey's Presidency of Religious Affairs, said Bishkek Mosque's construction on a 35-decare site has been completed by the 'Turkish Religious Foundation.'

The Mosque has an internal area of 7,500 square metres that will enable 6,000 people to pray and can capacitate 16,000 when open areas are included.

Palakoglu stated that the inauguration of the Mosque is planned for 2016, adding that the Foundation has built a total of 3,421 mosques and educational facilities in Turkey plus over 100 mosques across 25 countries since it was established in 1975.



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2015 warmest year on record

Data from the UK Meteorological Office shows that 2015 surpassed 2014 as the hottest year on record.

The world is now nearly 1°C hotter than it was before human beings started burning fossil fuels. While appearing small, that number is a big jump from the 14.3°C average that the world should be. For countries on the equator it has meant an increase of double that - and 1.5 times that for Africa.

An increase of that magnitude means 2015 will go down in history as the hottest year ever recorded. January and April 2015 were the only months to not break their own records.

Since 2000, average global monthly temperature records have been



broken 32 times. The last time an average monthly cold record was broken was during World War I.

During spring, dozens of temperature records were broken across the country with a corresponding dearth of rainfall. Highest maximum temperature and highest minimum temperature records were set.

The South African Weather Service predicts that 2016 will be 1.14°C hotter than pre-industrial levels.

Islam will be major religion by 2050

A research report shows that with current growth trends, Islam will be the world's major religion by 2050. By the end of the century, Muslims could outnumber Christians for the first time in history, according to a report released by the Pew Research Centre. "Another way of thinking about it is Christianity had a seven-century head-start on Islam, and Islam is finally catching up," says Alan Cooperman, the director of religion research at Pew.

Christianity is currently the world's largest religion making up a third of the world's population.

Pew research shows that Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world. The religious group will make up 30 percent of the world's population by 2050, compared to just 23 percent of the population in 2010. That means the number of Muslims in the world will nearly equal the number of Christians by 2050.

If Islam's growth spurt continues, Pew data shows, Muslims could outnumber Christians soon after the year 2070.



That's not to say that the total number of Christians is decreasing; Christianity's growth rate is just not as fast as Islam's. While the number of Christians will increase from about 2.1 billion to 2.9 billion by 2050, Muslims will jump from 1.6 billion to 2.8 billion.

The growth has to do with the relatively young age of the Muslim population as well as high fertility rates.

Cooperman, however, emphasizes that much could change between now and 2050.



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Hearts make Homes



All it takes to build a house is a few hands. To build a home, however, hearts are needed. When bricks join and bond, a house is made and when hearts join and bond, a home is made. For married couples to make a home, it is essential that they "have a heart" - be tolerant and overlook each other's faults. If they are not willing to forgive and forget, trivial issues will erupt into big arguments. This will eventually result in the couple becoming the talk of the town with their "dirty laundry" hanging out for all to see.

When cutlery is kept together in the same drawer, the spoons and forks will definitely clash and make noise.

Similarly, when the husband and wife are close, some arguments are bound to take place. Despite the bickering and arguing, if one of them has to pass away, all the fights will be forgotten and the surviving partner will cry over the happy memories.

It often happens that a divorce is issued in the midst of a heated argument. Only later on does the couple come to their senses, at which point they start wringing their hands in regret. The depression, at times, even drives them to the point of insanity. Couples thus need to bond their hearts in such a way that they remain united until death does them apart.

The Qur'an on mixed gatherings

To understand the Qur'an's view of mixed gatherings, let us reflect on this verse: "O you who believe! Let not some men among you laugh at others: It may be that the (latter) are better than the (former): Nor let some women laugh at others: It may be that the (latter) are better than the (former)." (Surah Al-Hujurat)



of a mixed gathering. So the question of men laughing at women or vice versa does not arise.

May Allah grant us the understanding.

O Allah grant my child a good 'home'

Parents are generally not consistent in making dua for their children; yet their duas are readily accepted. Rasulallah ﷺ said: "There are three such people whose duas are accepted instantly: the dua of an oppressed person, the dua of a traveller, a parent's dua for his/her child." (Sunan Ibn Majah)

Hazrat Moulana In'aamul Hasan (Rahimahullah) had mentioned that there is one simple dua which will be a means of great goodness for one's children. The dua is, "O Allah, grant my child a good home."

Moulana (Rahimahullah) then explained that "a good home" refers to one's own home - the first home of a child. We make dua that Allah Ta'ala make our own home a home of goodness, happiness, harmony, tarbiyyah, practice on deen, etc.

This dua then extends to the marital home of the child - that his/her marital home must be a place of goodness, happiness, love and unity, and a home wherein there is ease in

practising on deen and a means of progress in deen and of acquiring the best of both worlds.

We generally do not think further, but we also have the home of qabr - the grave. So this beautiful dua continues further, to the home in Barzakh - the hereafter - that this home also be a good and a pleasant home.

As for the Akhirah, there are only two homes: a good home and a bad home; Jannah or Jahannum. Thus this dua even includes the good home of the hereafter which is Jannah.

This is a simple dua but it spans the stages of life until a person is blessed with the eternal home of all goodness! It is such a beautiful dua that it is a means of tremendous goodness in this world and a dua that delivers one to Jannah, Insha-Allah.

May Allah Ta'ala grant us the taufiq and ability of making our duas meaningful.

Zikr @ Home



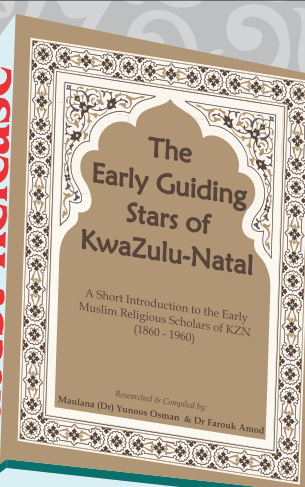
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Formula for unlimited blessings

The Story of Hazrat Halima Sa'diyya (RA), the foster mother of Rasulullah ﷺ is well-known.

The custom of the Arabs who lived in the towns was to entrust their young children in the care of the Bedouin women, who earned a living by being wet nurses. For the town Arabs, this time afforded their children the healthy environment of the desert; facilitating good health, strength and an opportunity to master the rich, untainted speech of the Bedouins. Thus, it was the good fortune of Hazrat Halima Sa'diyya, that Rasulullah ﷺ was destined for her.

In the many books on the Seerah, we read Hazrat Halima's personal account of how she, her husband and baby travelled in the company of other women, in search of children to suckle. It was a time of famine and drought and theirs was a state of hunger and want, to the extent that she could not even feed her baby.

On reaching Makkah Mukarramah, none of the women were prepared to accept Rasulullah ﷺ once they were told that he was an orphan. Their hope was to secure a child whose father would reward them generously.

Whilst the other women were successful in their quest, Halima was not. Before departing from Makkah Mukarramah, she decided to take the orphaned baby, rather than have none to take home. There was no other choice that she had.

Halima relates herself, that the moment she lifted him into her arms, she found to her great surprise, that she had sufficient milk to feed him, as well as her own little baby. And she thereafter related the good fortune that came their way whilst taking care of the little Muhammad ﷺ: Their she-camel was suddenly blessed with

plentiful milk; her lean, slow donkey was suddenly blessed with strength and speed; their barren land was blessed with plentiful grass for their animals to feed on. And like this, prosperity filled their home due to the presence and blessings of Rasulullah ﷺ.

Reflecting over this, we learn so much: Just the physical body of Nabi ﷺ coming into the arms of Hazrat Halima as a little baby, caused such blessings to pour into their lives.

Nabi ﷺ was not able to give lengthy speeches in the arms of Hazrat Halima; nor was his character, his dealings, his relationships with people, his honesty and his truthfulness, his charity and his sincerity, his nobility and forgiveness, and other beautiful characteristics apparent at that time when she took the little baby into her arms. At this stage, it was only the physical body of Nabi ﷺ as a baby ... yet look at the tremendous Barakah.

Blessings in their lives, in their home, in their time and crops, in their animals and their food ... Barakah in everything.

If so many blessings came with just lifting and carrying the physical body of Nabi ﷺ, then what would we say about the Barakaat and the blessings that a person will see and experience in his own life if he has to bring the teachings of Nabi ﷺ in his life?

Thus, if someone looks at that incident of Hazrat Halima Sa'diyya (RA), and the blessings of just taking Rasulullah ﷺ into her arms as a baby, then we draw the lesson: Barakaat is sure to follow, in abundance, if we only bring into our lives the beautiful Sunnah of Rasulullah ﷺ. It's that simple. 'Let those who wish to enjoy blessings, bring alive the Sunnah'.

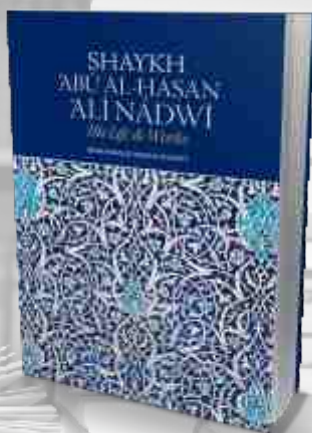
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'For a happier life, give up Facebook'



Always envious! Got a non-existent social life and struggling to concentrate? All this might be down to Facebook according to a study showing those who go a week without using the social network feel happier than others!

Carried out by the Happiness Research Institute, the study involved a sample of 1,095 people in Denmark who were divided into two groups, half of whom continued using Facebook while the others stopped.

"We focused on Facebook because it is the social media that most people use across age groups," Meik Wiking, HRI's chief executive told AFP in Copenhagen, the Danish capital.

After a week, those people who hadn't been on Facebook said they were more satisfied with their lives, with 88 percent of them describing themselves as "happy" compared with 81 percent from the second group.

Some 84 percent said they appreciated their lives compared with 75 percent in the other group, and only 12 percent described themselves as dissatisfied, compared with 20 percent among those who continued using Facebook. At the end of the experiment, the abstainers reported having a richer social life and fewer difficulties in concentrating, while the others reported no such change.

"Instead of focusing on what we actually need, we have an unfortunate tendency to focus on what other people have," the authors of the study wrote.

In other words, Facebook users are 39 percent more likely to feel less happy than non-users.

Source : Arab News

Comment: *This is the unfortunate general state of social media use today. Most use technology to their detriment rather than benefit. If technology is used responsibly and beneficially then there is no harm.*



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Media Desk

Liquor policy must be given priority

THE article "Liquor is destroying Zulu nation, says king," (The Mercury, October 30) refers.

King Goodwill Zwelithini's call for the curb and control of liquor outlets and taverns is commendable.

The mushrooming of taverns in urban and rural areas has indeed become an unfortunate means by which alcohol is made available to communities, particularly the youth.

This is not only negatively impacting Zulu culture, but all cultures in South Africa.

The accessibility and abuse of intoxicants have, to a great extent, contributed to the social breakdown of too many in our society.

The Department of Trade and Industry's proposal of a national liquor policy needs to be fast-tracked as it is unacceptable that liquor outlets are currently allowed to operate within 500m of schools, places of worship and recreational facilities.

This would be forbidden under the new policy.

MEDIA DESK
Darul Ihsan Centre

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

Letters commenting on broad issues are also regularly sent to the editors of newspapers

Below are a few letters which were sent by the Media Desk and published in newspapers.

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.

Research 'terror' attack for its origin

WE HAVE amazing technology today. We can – with satellite technology – not only know or see what's happening anywhere in the world in an instant and at the instant it's happening, but also become a part of it as it happens in our very homes.

This technology makes us "virtual" participants in every event of celebration, sadness, tragedy and terror.

The same technology has the most frightening and unbelievable capability of "drone warfare" – an acronym for "terror at the behest of a joystick" – enacted by highly militarised states which license themselves to terrorise and kill innocent civilians all in the name of war.

Former US president Jimmy Carter has criticised the use of "Unmanned Aerial Vehicles" (military drones): "We don't know how many hundreds of innocent civilians have been killed in these attacks... this would have been unthinkable in previous times."

Terror is terror and it has to be condemned in whatever form it appears – be it in Beirut, Paris, Baghdad or Mali. The recent tragic events of terror in Paris have captivated the attention of the

world media, yet an amnesia pervades all events which led to it and all post-World War II events that have given us the world as we know today.

The volumes of post-World War II histories are filled with incidents of terror and unprovoked aggression, not for justice or defence, but for a show of power; theft of resources – be it precious metals, oil or water – and theft of land.

At which point is war "war" and terror "terror"?

Among the many injustices, what is the state of the world?

Syria has been destabilised and is plagued by groups and factions that have sprung up as a consequence of the invasion of Iraq by Western powers.

Afghanistan has been invaded by the British, raped by the Soviet Union and devastated by the US and Nato.

We have Yemen, Chechnya, Myanmar, Kashmir, Kosovo, Bosnia, Lebanon, Vietnam, Libya... the list goes on.

The next time you hear of a "militant terror attack", research its origin and reflect on how, why and where it all started.

DARUL IHSAN CENTRE
Media Desk
Durban



Province feels effects of crippling drought with farming areas hit hard

How the Daily News carried the story on October 20

Don't take tap water for granted

ACCORDING to reports, more than 500 000 people in KwaZulu-Natal face an increased risk of disease as a result of the continuing drought.

Diminishing water in rivers and streams has impacted heavily on North Coast communities, with farmers suffering the most.

In June, with the Hazelmere Dam level at "just below 30%", Durban residents were warned that if they did not use water sparingly, taps could run dry.

Current capacity at the dam has not improved, with its level at 28.56% (last updated on October 21) and news of large-scale theft of water and hijacking of water tankers, exacerbating an already critical situation.

There seems to be some hope and possible reprieve that the start of the rainy season will alleviate the situation. However, the impact of climate change is a very real phenomenon offering no guarantee that the situation will improve.

Everyone who opens their tap and takes it for granted that water will flow without interruption has to have an urgent and serious change of mindset and attitude.

Water conservation methods and ideas need to be implemented post-haste.

At the same time, one must never forget the power of prayer to save us from any affliction in nature.

DARUL IHSAN CENTRE
Durban

Mass response to racist tirades is to be commended

RACISM is a phenomenon which raises its ugly head worldwide – covertly and overtly – as a blatant attack on the dignity of humans, their culture and their religion.

Despite the legacy of apartheid, South Africans have a sense of community

with each other, a beacon to the world of humanness and the sensibility of reconciliation.

Yet within our shores, and outside in other nations, we have individuals and their supporters – in their confusion of free speech – who have lost sight of the fact that it is only

through the triumph of the human spirit that nations trump racism and disunity.

The mass response against the racist tirades of such individuals is to be commended, supported and cherished.

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Don't be sad

The word "sadness" does not appear in the Qur'an except in the form of forbidding it or negating it.

Allah says "Do not worry and do not be sad" and "So there is no fear for them and nor will they grieve." The reason for this is because there is no benefit for having sadness in the heart.

The Prophet ﷺ sought refuge in Allah Ta'ala from sadness in a dua: "O Allah, save me from worry and grief."

Sadness weakens the heart and diminishes determination and willingness in a person to move forward. Hence, there is nothing more beloved to the shaytan than the sadness of a believer. For this reason, be happy, optimistic and think good about Allah Ta'ala. Have trust in Allah Ta'ala that He is

able to do anything and depend on Him totally. You will find happiness and pleasure in all situations.

Ibnul Qayyim (R) said, "Don't ruin your happiness with worry, and don't ruin your mind with pessimism. Don't ruin your success with deception and don't ruin the optimism of others by destroying it. Don't ruin your day by looking back at yesterday."

If you think about your situation, you will find that Allah Ta'ala has given you things without asking, so have trust in Allah Ta'ala.

A saintly person said: "Life is short, so don't shorten it with worries, grief, and sadness. "So be the owner of a heart that breathes happiness and satisfaction.

May Allah Ta'ala always keep us happy and save us from grief and sadness.

The great benefits of Istighfaar

A man once came to Hasan Basri (Rahimahullah) and complained to him: "The sky does not shower us with rain." He replied: "Seek Allah's forgiveness (i.e. say Astaghfirullah)."

Then another person came to him and said, "I complain of poverty." He replied: "Seek Allah's forgiveness."

Then another person came to him and complained, "My wife is barren; she cannot bear children." He replied: "Seek Allah's forgiveness." The

people who were present, said to Hasan Basri: "Everytime a person came to you complaining, you instructed them to seek Allah's forgiveness?"

Hasan Basri said, "Have you not read the statement of Allah? I said "Ask forgiveness of your Lord. Truly He is Oft-Forgiving. He will send rain to you in abundance; increase you in wealth and children; grant you gardens and bestow on you rivers."

(Surah Nooh Verses 10-12)

Changing what Allah has created

Abdullah bin Masood (R) narrates: "Allah has cursed those women who practice - Tattooing - those who request tattooing be done for them, - those who shave/trim the eyebrows - those who request that they

eyebrows be shaved/trimmed - and those who create spaces between their teeth artificially to look beautiful, Such ladies have changed what Allah has created."

(Sahih Muslim)

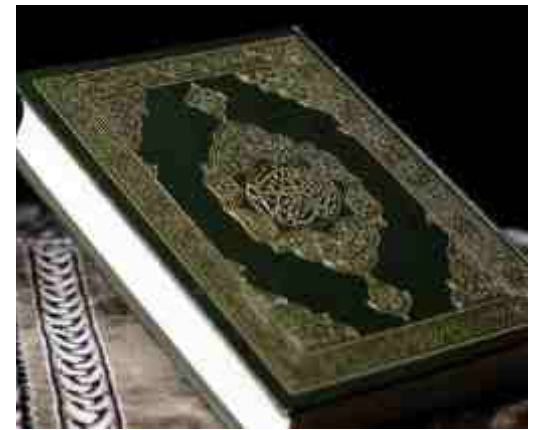
'Literature Collection' project ships 2,000 Qurans to Uganda

The Literature Collection Project of Darul Ihsan Centre is a unique service that facilitates the collection and disposing of Islamic literature - conveniently and respectfully.

Mobile collection units are placed at strategic points nationally - mainly at Masajid - to facilitate the easy disposal of Islamic literature, which is then sorted and further distributed or disposed respectfully. Over the years many tons of Islamic literature - including Qurans, Madrasah books, etc. - have been shipped to countries in Africa and Latin America where they have been well received by the respective Muslim communities.

In January 2016, a collection of some 2,000 Quran Shareefs and other authentic Islamic books were sent to Uganda. These Qurans and Islamic books will be distributed through the local Ulama to Masajid, Madrassahs, Musallahs and libraries where Islamic literature is scarce and greatly appreciated.

In some rural areas of Uganda Masajid have only one copy of the Quran. Very



little Islamic literature is printed in Uganda and there are consistent requests and a dire need for authentic material in the country. Uganda has a population of some 40 million of which about 5 million are Muslim. The main language is English and the literacy rate in the country is high.

Alhamdulillah, the Qurans, Islamic literature and other usable literature collected - through the combined effort of the South African Muslim community in the 'Literature Collection' project - benefit many Muslims in far-off countries.

Darul Ihsan Centre

Seven Qualities of a Da'ee – Caller to Islam

Dawah and propagation of the beautiful way of Islam is a duty of every Muslim. A Muslim should adopt such character, mannerisms and ways that cause an attraction to Islam. The pure way of Islam is such that the mere implementation of the beautiful Deen causes a magnetic effect in the hearts of people and people become affected by the way of Islam and embrace the pure Deen.

The following are some basic qualities that a Muslim should uphold to become an effective Da'ee :

1. To have love for the entire creation for the sake of Allah Ta'ala - to rid the heart of hatred and malice for others

2. To be cognisant of one's own

weaknesses and make the intention of one's own reformation when interacting with others

3. To develop the desire to sacrifice one's health, wealth and time for the sake of Allah Ta'ala

4. When achieving any form of success to believe it to be assistance from Allah Ta'ala and attribute the success to Allah Ta'ala

5. To not lose hope in the instance of rejection and non-responsiveness from the people

6. To be patient on the troubles from others

7. To resort to Istighfaar after any good action

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Q & A

Youth today are crazy about professional sports

It is common today for Muslim children and youth particularly and adults generally to follow football teams and other professional sports events with a lot of 'allegiance', passion and energy. People make dua for victory of their team and spend hours following 'their' teams' players, results, progress and position. Young children will be seen idolising their favourite player and sporting jerseys with his name imprinted on it. Is this desirable and okay for a Muslim. Can we make dua for our team?

The environment and manner in which professional sport is hosted, played and marketed entails a plethora of vice and impermissible activities like vulgarity, defamation, cheating, dancing, music, nudity, photography, exposing of the satr, betting, gambling, haram advertisements (representing alcohol, interest institutions, gambling, pornography), intermingling of the sexes, idolatry, dereliction of Islamic duty etc. Given this backdrop it is inevitable that a person frequenting, supporting and being passionate about such activity will be affected by its environment and influenced by its theme and objectives.

Furthermore, the entire industry of professional sport has been devised to keep the world's attention fixed on things that are irrelevant to the lives

and problems of humanity so people lose focus of the real issues affecting their community and world.

The little good that may be envisaged from such sport is far overwhelmed and diluted by excessive vice and negative un-Islamic factors that exist. Making dua for such course is not only futile but ironic as a Muslim should be seeking protection from the avenues of wrongdoing and sin.

Of much greater importance than the victory or loss of a sports match is dua for guidance, salvation and protection - dua for the alleviation of oppression of the millions that are being tormented, starved, massacred and face untold hardship and pain on a daily basis.

Passionately following one's "team" and the results can either lead one to more than anxiety, stress, frustration and anger or a short term happiness and some excitement and sense of false achievement.

A Muslim is one who utilises the valuable bounty of time in an intelligent and fruitful manner, wherein every moment is spent to do good or promote good. May Allah Ta'ala grant us true understanding.

Tattoos and running a tattoo business

The practice of tattoos on the body has become very common. Are Muslims permitted to have tattoos or practice this trade?

Disfiguring and mutilation of one's body is prohibited in Islam. The body, organs and limbs of a human being are the sole property of Allah Ta'ala and must be utilised in accordance with His divine command and pleasure. The Noble Quran makes mention of mutilation in the words of shaytan when he said: 'I will mislead them and I will order them to slit the ears of cattle, and to deface the (fair) natural creation of Allah.' (4:119)

To deface and distort the nature created by Allah Ta'ala is something that shaytan strives for and advocates. Hazrat Abdullah ibn Mas'ud ؓ narrates the following: "Allah's curse is on those women who practise tattooing and imprint (their bodies with) tattoos, those who clip facial hair (eyebrows), and those who make space between their teeth artificially to beautify themselves. They are such that they distort the natural features created by Allah. Allah's Messenger ﷺ also cursed such women." (Recorded by Imam Bukhari and Imam Muslim in their respective Sahih collections)

In view of the above, the jurists have declared mutilation of one's body to be unlawful (haram) unless when shariah permits to do so, such as circumcision, trimming the hair of the body, cutting the nails, necessary surgery, etc. "That which is regarded an adornment for the body, such as piercing the ears or the nose, etc." is not permissible (Extract of Fatwa by Mufti Muhammad ibn Adam Al-Kawthari with slight amendments)"

Accordingly tattoos in all forms of practice are not permissible in Islam.

The time after Esha is for the wife

Is there any significance in that a husband's time after Esha is for his wife?

It is imperative for the husband to spend good quality time with his family and children apart from his normal routine. He should not neglect them in their Tarbiyat and showing them the right Deeni values. It is not acceptable for a husband to engage in futile activities at the expense of spending family time. However, if he has to go out for valid reasons e.g. a Deeni programme or some acceptable form of recreation, etc. then this would be acceptable within reasonable bounds, provided

that he is not neglecting his duties at home which include spending time with his family. In this case, he should clearly inform them of the time and place of the programme and expected time of return so as to avoid causing the family anxiety about his whereabouts.

Removal of hair by laser technology

Assalamualaikum, is it permissible for my wife to get laser hair treatment on full body by a female practitioner

In terms of removing hair (in areas that is permissible to remove) using laser technology is permissible in principle, provided the product or process used is not harmful to one's body and health. If the removal of hair is undertaken without engaging in any impermissible act (e.g. exposing oneself to males, or exposing one's aurah to females) then this method of removing the hair will be permissible.

Hence, for a female to remove the hair of another female from areas that are aurah (prohibited to view) is not permissible. These areas include the hair on the thighs, 'bikini' area, 'Brazilian' waxing, etc. Females should remove hair around such areas on their own. It is extremely immodest to have hair around such areas removed by someone else.

Speeding and reckless driving

Please provide guidance on fast driving? Is one allowed to drive above the speed limit and if not, will doing so render one sinful? If a person has to pass away in an accident due to speeding, will it be considered to be suicide?

A Muslim should not cause any form of inconvenience to others. One should ensure that he does not drive in a way that causes anxiety to others and could endanger his life and the lives of others. Accordingly, one should obey the traffic rules for the safety of all road users.

To be reckless and drive at high speed will endanger one's life or the life of other innocent people. This is not permissible as it could have serious consequences if someone is injured or loses his/her life.

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Q & A

However, if one dies in an accident due to driving beyond the speed limit, generally this will not be considered as suicide.

Use of hair gel and wudhu

Q I am in the habit of using hair gel to fashion and keep my hair straight? Will wudhu be valid if masah of the head is made over the gel?

A If the gel is porous and allows water to pass through to the hair, the masah will be valid. If it is not porous and prohibits water from reaching the required portion of the head then masah will not be valid thus invalidating the wudhu and consequently one's Salah. The same law will apply to ghushl.

Additional Comment: It is important to note that using hair gel for styling the hair e.g. to spike and punk the hair etc., as is commonly practiced by those that follow a western identity and lifestyle is impermissible. Making one's identity similar to that of the disbelievers and transgressors is undesirable. A Muslim should inwardly and outwardly portray the true values and identity of Islam. The hairstyles that many youngsters adopt today leave much to be desired. It is unfortunate when the honour of following the Sunnah and the traditional Islamic ways have lost their value in our eyes, and the blind slavery of following the ways and styles of others becomes desirable to

us. Parents should endeavour to mould their children in an Islamic manner and counsel them towards a life of morality and piety. May Allah Ta'ala protect our youth.

Husband can't leave his phone

Q Please help me. My husband comes home from work and only sits on his phone watching you tube n chatting to friends on whatsapp. I've had enough fights regarding this but he refuses to listen I'm on verge of running away. I have 2 kids and pregnant for the 3rd. He has no fear for Allah he refuses to read Salah. The only Salah he is willing to read is Jumma.

Please advise on what I should do?

A We are most perturbed on hearing of your plight. May Allah Ta'ala make it easy for you and may he guide your husband and make him pious.

Indeed uncontrolled use of the cell phone causes much harm and strain on relationships. It is important that one is disciplined in the use of the cell phone. There should be a rule at home that when it is time for family interaction then cell phones are kept aside. These are all rules derived from guidelines of our Shariah.

We advise you to do the following to try and address and help the situation;

1. Make abundant Taubah and Istighfaar for the past and beg Allah Ta'ala's forgiveness with deep remorse.

2. For a few minutes every day conduct Ta'leem audibly with the children and read incidents from the lives and books of the pious.

3. Avoid all types of Haraam and doubtful foods, places and people, especially the media and its evil influences like the television, immoral magazines, newspapers, novels, videos/movies etc.

4. Increase the recitation of Qur'an at home together with Zikr and Durood Shareef.

5. Try to improve one's ways and habits and follow the Sunnah as close as possible.

6. Recite the following du'aa: "Allahumma Innee Asta'eenuka `alaa Taa`atik" meaning "O Allah! Assist me towards Your total obedience" with Durood Shareef thrice before and after, and thereafter cry, ask and beg Allah Ta'ala especially after Fajr and Maghrib after reciting Surah Yaseen.

7. Perform Salat al Hajah daily and beseech Allah Ta'ala for His mercies and blessings and that He guides your husband to become pious and obedient.

Shariah compliant investments

Q Please clarify if the following types of investments are sharia compliant and if they are what type of shariah investment are these.

1. A person invests a fixed amount in a business e.g. he invests R100 000 and gets a fixed return for period of 12 months of R2 000-00 per month. At the

end of the 12 month period the capital (R100 000) is returned.

2. A person invests a fixed amount in a business e.g. he invests R100 000 and gets a fixed return for a period of 12 months of R10 333.33 per month.

A It appears from the questions that in both these investments the capital and profit is guaranteed. This being the case this investment is regarded as a loan with interest in the Shariah and is accordingly Haraam. The parties should strive to structure their investments on a Shariah compliant basis.

Allah Ta'ala Knows Best

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 250 questions per month - mostly via email - from around the globe. Every reply is checked and approved by at least two Muftis that serve in the department.

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What's Happening at Darul Ihsan Centre

'Revive the Sunnah' youth programme

Youth of the Ummah' (Y.O.U) - the youth wing of Darul Ihsan Centre - hosted a 'Revive the Sunnah' one-day activity programme for high school boys at Al Falaah College on Saturday, 10 October 2015.

The primary activity of the programme was lessons in archery instructed by Brother Zaid Kajee followed by soccer and a 'basic handyman know-how' session for the boys.

The programme started at 9: 30 AM with a Qirat by one of the participants followed by an interactive programme on Drug awareness by Ml Zakariya Murchie.

Thereafter the archery lessons, soccer activities and handyman basics sessions were done in groups.

Lunch was served at 12:30 PM followed by Zuhr Salah and a Q & A session with Mufti Muhammad Ballim. All activities were timely completed



by 3:00 PM.

All participants really enjoyed the programme and were very excited by the archery lessons and totally engrossed in the handyman basics session. Due to the intensity and specialist nature of this programme the number of participants were restricted to 30.

Alhamdulillah, we had much interest from many more boys who wanted to participate in the days programme.

Insha Allah, we hope to accommodate more numbers for similar programmes in the future.

Youth of the Ummah (YOU)

'Taqwa School of Excellence' gets new premises

With the Grace of Allah Ta'ala, the 'Taqwa School of Excellence' - based in Johannesburg - has moved to its new premises.

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.

Now located at Mayfair, 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 the education offered by the school is aimed at children with learning difficulties who require special individual attention and tuition with much love and care.

The school offers academic, Islamic and life skills education. Together with the full time educators, a professional team of specialist volunteers including occupational therapists, remedial therapists, speech and hearing Therapists, etc. 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 the 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. Working with children who have special needs at 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 the beautiful and heart-warming Taqwa School of Excellence for my child Zainub." - Parent

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

• "Alhamdulillah, All Praise is only for Allah. A world my daughter Ameera only dreamt of or imagined became a reality for her. The year 2013 was the year a bright ray of sunshine burst into my daughter's life, finally Ameera felt a part of society. Alhumdulillah.... May Allah guide and protect the "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 in this school is a different kind of flower and all children make this world a beautiful garden." - Educator

The new address of the School is 34 Mercury Street, Mayfair West on the corner of St Gothard Avenue.

For enrolment and more information contact Maulana Ravat on 082 671 9956

YOU 2015 Adventure Camp

The 2015 Summer school holiday 'Youth of the Ummah' (YOU) 'Adventure Camp' for boys - ages 12 to 18 - has been a resounding success.

The 'Adventure Camp,' a three day event which began on Monday, 14 December and ended on Wednesday, 16 December (Day of Reconciliation) saw 70 boys taking part in the camp - the highest number of participants ever - since the inception of the three day activity programme six years ago. The participants were equally divided between those from KZN and Gauteng.

The primary activities of the camp were abseiling, paintball, 'Zip-Line,' 'King Swing,' tree climbing, hiking, an obstacle course, canoe racing and many other team building and group activities. Seven adult male facilitators - most of whom were Ulama from Darul Ihsan Centre - supervised and coordinated the three day event and also partook in all activities with the youth. All instructions and safety briefings were given to the participants and all necessary precautions were taken before the commencement of the various activities.

Many Islamic programmes were presented and spiritual advices given during the three day camp. Dedicated programmes such as Zikr and recitation of Yaseen took place after Fajr Salah - which was followed by Ishraq Salah. After Zuhr Salah,



extracts from Fazail e Amal were read and explained to the attentive youth. General advices, talks on the life of the Sahaba ﷺ, some pertinent aspects of the history of Islam followed between Asr and Maghrib Salah. After Isha Salah, some brief advices were given followed by Tahajud Salah. Alhamdulillah, all 5 Salahs were performed in Jamat with all participants and facilitators. All participants enjoyed all the activities and benefitted spiritually in brotherhood.

In what is seen as a media onslaught on Muslims worldwide the essence of the programme is for our youth to become ambassadors of Islam and to stand united as Muslims. At the same time, enjoy the adventure, have fun and acquire knowledge within the boundaries of Shariah.

Alhamdulillah, at the end everyone reached home safely, excited and inspired by participating in the camp. Insha Allah, Darul Ihsan Centre - through 'Y.O.U.' - will endeavour to have more programmes for our youth in the future

Youth of the Ummah (YOU)



Youth Soccer Tournament

'Handyman Basics' programme

A third session of the 'Handyman Basics' course in the 'Skills Development Programme' of Darul Ihsan was held at the Centre's Gem Towers office in Overport on Saturday, 03 October 2015.

The 'Handyman Basics' course is directed to both novices and beginners in a field of do-it-yourself (DIY) skills on how to use essential tools, do basic cistern repairs, how to mount shelves, multi-plugs, etc.

The programme was well attended with over 40 participants - from teens up to seniors - who actively interacted with questions to the presenter during the 3 hour session.

It was most encouraging that many youngsters participated in the programme.

Darul Ihsan Centre, in its on-going community initiatives, will continue to host such skills programmes for the interest of and benefit to the Ummah.

Muslim Empowerment Fund

"Home improvement" replaces roof structure of 62 year-old home

The 'Home Improvement' team of Darul Ihsan Centre recently undertook a unique project to improve and renovate an old thatched roof wattle and daub house built in 1953.

The 62 year house located in the Howick area required urgent attention due to dilapidation of its roof structure, which was not only a necessity but also a danger to the occupant family.

Further assessment of the home saw the need for refurbishment to the interior of the home as well.

The team went ahead and replaced the entire roof structure as the initial phase of the renovations.

The entire roof was removed and replaced with IBR sheeting and a new ceiling was also installed.

Refurbishment to the interior is expected to be completed in due course, InshaAllah.

Darul Ihsan Centre's "Home Improvement" project aspires to provide essential renovation and refurbishment to existing dwellings for owners who would otherwise find it impossible to do so.

The directives of the "Home Improvement" project are - amongst other things - to better the living conditions, provide safety and security for the occupant families

Alhamdulillah, the generous contributions of the community go a long way in bringing relief and joy to families who could not afford to carry out necessary repairs and renovations.



Before



After

Learners get snacks at King Dinzulu Hospital

Continuing with its community initiatives, on Thursday 03 September 2015, Darul Ihsan Centre - through its Muslim Empowerment Fund - provided combo meals, fruit packs and stationery packs to 50 children at King Dinizulu Hospital in Asherville. The programme was arranged in conjunction with the Pharmacy Department of the hospital as part of their Pharmacy Awareness Week Event.

The children suffer from chronic illnesses and stay in the hospital wards and attend the 'Hospital School' during the day.

The principal, Vani Singh, expressed her appreciation and thanked Darul Ihsan for the kind contribution to the patients/learners and the time taken to visit and motivate the young learners.

In another event, Darul Ihsan provided 300 hot meals to The Inanda Community Health Centre on Friday 4 September 2015 as part of their Pharmacy Awareness Week Event. Here, paediatric patients and their parents from the ARV programme were served with hot meals.



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Journey Into Islam



Assalaamu Alaikum

My journey into the fold of Islam began when I was working on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

I followed the financial markets & kept a close eye on the Middle East. How was I to know that Allah Ta'ala had a plan for me, my daughter and my two grandchildren.

A few years after I retired I went to Port Shepstone and worked for Build-it. I made many Muslim friends in Port Shepstone and was exposed to and learnt much about Islam from them. However, due to my illness I was boarded from work. My daughter and I decided to move to Durban. Although it was a move into the unknown it was a step closer to Allah Ta'ala.

Through this trying time I became more inclined to Islam. One morning I decided to go to a dawah organisation to enter the fold of Islam. Alhamdulillah! My daughter joined me as we recited the Kalimah. We became Muslims. My name changed to Mohammad and my daughter became Aysha. My grandchildren couldn't wait for us to name them!

Alhamdulillah, ever since the day we became Muslims we have had no regrets. Even though we had 'ups and downs' in our lives our Imaan became stronger.

One day at the Grey Street Juma

Masjid I picked up a pamphlet of Darul Ihsan. It was as though Allah Ta'ala had answered my Duas. We were trying to start a small business, involving Islamic calligraphy and mirror décor. We confronted many financial difficulties in our attempt to open the business. Upon reading the pamphlet I approached Darul Ihsan. I presented Darul Ihsan with a business plan of my idea. Alhamdulillah Darul Ihsan answered my Duas and assisted me in starting my business.

May Allah Ta'ala accept all the efforts of Darul Ihsan and grant Barakah to all those involved in setting me up in my business venture. Ameen.

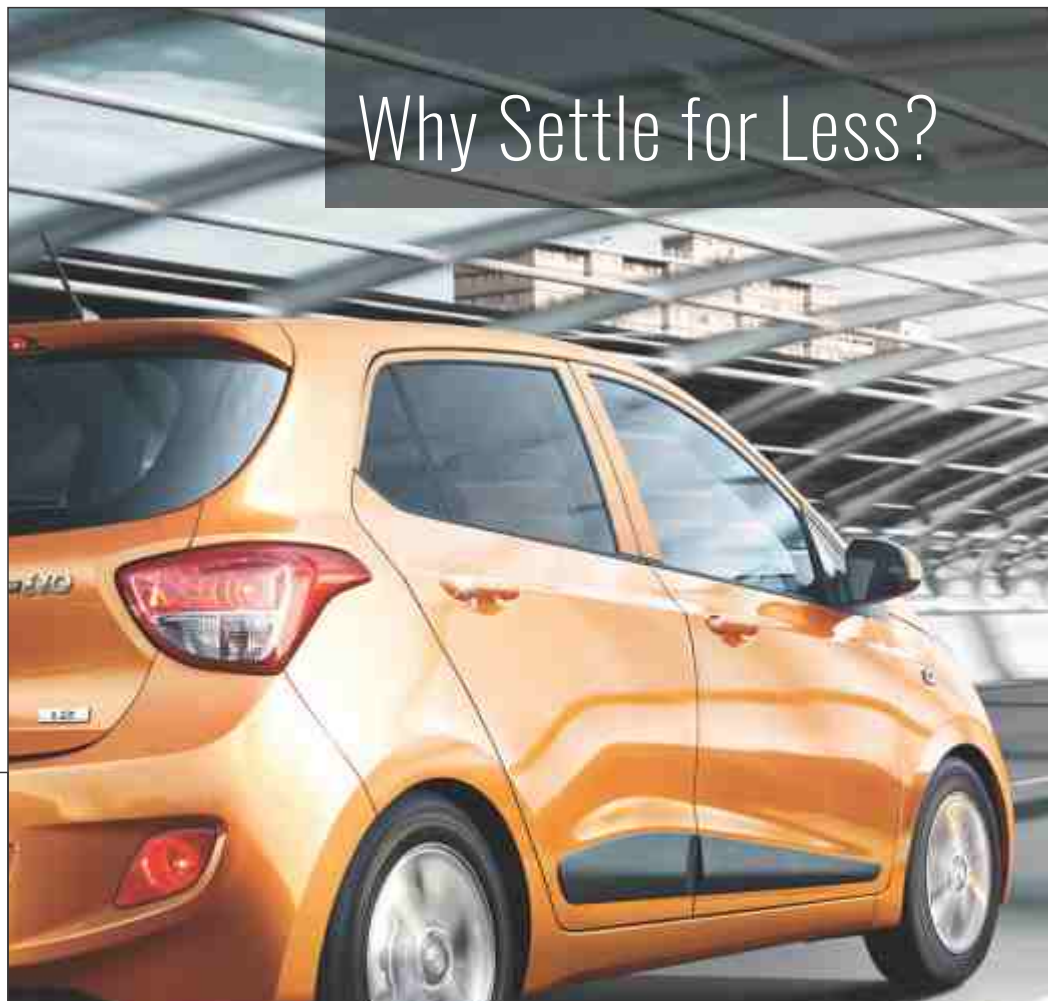
Insha Allah, I am aware that it will be a while before my business will sustain itself and become established. Alhamdulillah it is presently on 'solid ground.'

I make Dua that I will be able to help others as Darul Ihsan has helped us.

I make Dua for all those involved in the organisation. We shall never forget your help.

Shukran - Jazakallah
Was Salaam
Mohamed and Aysha

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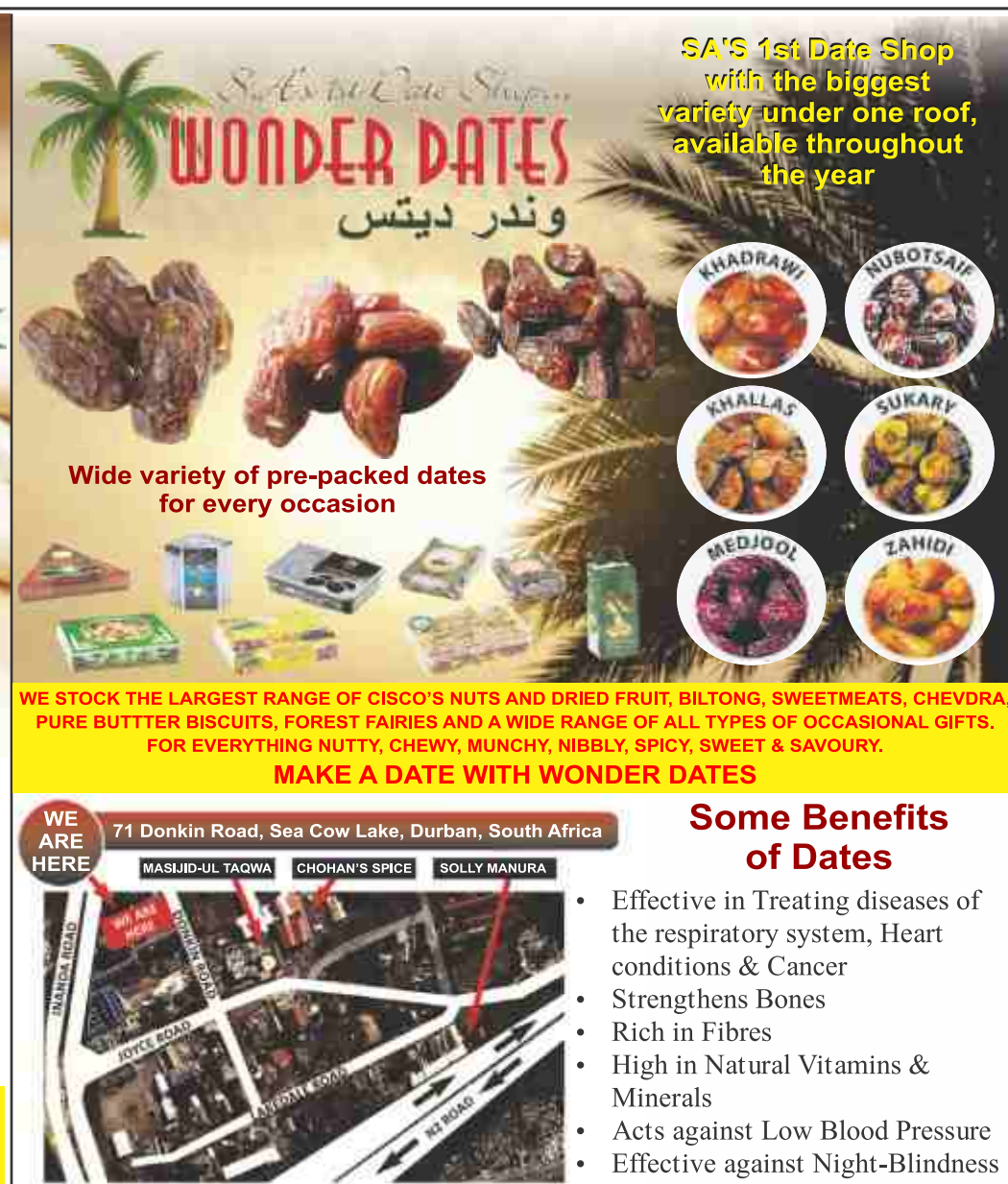
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