

REFLECTIONS ON RAMADAN & EID

Around the world, the Muslim community has completed Ramadan, the month of fasting. Ramadan, the ninth month in the Islamic calendar, is terminated with the ceremony of Eid, a day of gratitude and rejoicing. The word "Ramadan" comes from the Arabic root word denoting "scorching heat" and "sun-baked ground". Symbolically, Ramadan provides "spiritual heat" with great therapeutic effect, which is soaked up slowly over the whole month by the soul and heart of the fasting person, just as stones soak up the sun's heat.

Heat therapy is increasingly being applied as a medical treatment to remove toxins, cold and other harmful conditions from the body. In a similar manner, the spiritual heat of Ramadan expunges and "dries out" greed, arrogance, lethargy, indifference and other spiritual deficiencies from the soul of man. Viewed from another angle, heat is vital to all manufacturing processes. Metals, plastic, glass, wood, etc. are all moulded into various beneficial products under scorching temperatures. Similarly, figuratively speaking, the heart of man is cast into a beautiful spiritual mould in the heat of the crucible of Ramadan, thereby becoming a wonderful receptacle of good values and noble ideals.

Long term benefits of fasting

Fasting throughout the month of Ramadan, the third of Islam's five pillars, is compulsory for Muslims. Fasting is not a mindless exercise of torturing the body by remaining hungry and thirsty, but is extremely meaningful and produces great long term benefits for the fasting person. As a whole, people indulge excessively in food, snacking and nibbling the whole day, thereby heading towards weight gain, obesity and health problems. The intake of drinks such as coffee, tea and fizzy or carbonated drinks is also excessive. When one is fasting, strong discipline is exercised and despite mouth-watering food and delicious drinks being readily obtainable, the fasting person cannot even taste these.

Besides regulating the intake of food, some of the benefits of fasting in Ramadan are tabulated as follows:

- Increase in prayers and devotional practices in Ramadan generate a feeling of spiritual awakening
- Fasting, which entails abstention from food and drink for the whole day, creates a greater appreciation for the bounty of food and drinks which are easily taken for granted

As the crescent is sighted again, and the day of celebration begins.

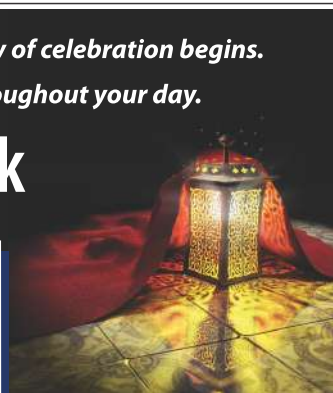
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Eid Mubarak

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- Strong self-discipline and control is developed - a direct effect of fasting - which is essential for achieving any of life's worthy goals and ambitions
- Fasting requires patience - a sublime virtue - which in turn contributes towards the development of tolerance, contentment and good conduct
- Ramadan causes a change in life's routine, which enforces healthier habits - particularly with regard to diet and consumption, sleeping routine and giving up bad habits, such as smoking
- Because fasting is a collective activity, it creates a universal sense of belonging and cohesion which is vital for social stability and emotional well-being

Sympathy for the poor and underprivileged

One of the great benefits of fasting is that a person experiences hunger and thirst first hand, thereby personally identifying with the plight of the hungry and poor. This in turn generates a real and intense degree of

sympathy and concern for the poor and needy, who have so little to live on each day. Ramadan is truly a month of charity and sharing with the poor and underprivileged. Fasting galvanises and mobilises people into programs and campaigns of poverty eradication. One who does not from time to time experience hunger and thirst, cannot truly experience what the poor and hungry feel.

Ramadan as an ideal lifestyle altering program

It is significant to note that lifestyle change and inculcation of a new routine only comes about with a sustained program carried out steadfastly and with discipline over a period of time. Change in routine and habit is usually achieved over the duration of a month at least. This brings about the desirable change in routine that is otherwise difficult to achieve. Ramadan - a month long intensive program - provides exactly this opportunity for lifestyle change. Then when the momentum begins to slacken over the year, along comes the next Ramadan to put things back on track, and so the cycle continues year after year. In this way, the benefits of this month, as elucidated above, are retained for most of the year. When the "batteries" begin to weaken and loose charge, again comes the next Ramadan to give a full charge!

The completion of the holy month, is followed by a day of celebration and rejoicing, referred to as the Day of Eid. This is a day of indulgence in good food, fine dress and great socialising with family and friends, but again with much emphasis on sharing with the poor and needy...[READ MORE](#)

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CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

INDIA CORONA CRISIS

India is in the grips of a public health emergency. Social media feeds are inundated with news and images of Covid funerals at crowded cemeteries, wailing relatives of the dead outside hospitals, long queues of ambulances carrying gasping patients, mortuaries overflowing with the dead, and patients, sometimes two to a bed, in corridors and lobbies of hospitals.

The harrowing scenes from India have shocked the world, as the country continues to battle with a surge in Covid cases. India has recorded more than 300,000 new infections every day for a week, and the numbers are rising fast.

The surge has overwhelmed its under-funded and fragile healthcare system - and even graveyards.

Many Indian cities are reporting a chronic shortage of hospital beds. This is also evident in the desperate cries for help on social media platforms. Disturbing reports of people dying without getting timely treatment are coming from all over the country.

In the midst of such a crisis it is imperative for us to feel concern and reach out to our fellow Muslim brothers, sisters and all humans for ease and relief.

Ulama in India have made appeals to the public to adopt all preventative measures to help curb the spread of the virus as far as possible.

In these trying times, whilst keeping our own protection and well-being in mind, we should use the benefit of the blessed days and nights of Ramadan to draw on the Mercy of Almighty Allah.

The following is required

Repentance - Taubah & Istighfaar: Sincere Taubah. Repent to Allah Ta'ala and reform

our ways. Whilst this is an oft repeated advice, it remains the primary solution to all human crisis. Allah Ta'ala says: "And all of you repent to your Creator collectively so you may be successful." Seeking pardon through Istighfaar brings relief from tribulations and grief.

Dua - Engage in fervent dua which is the weapon of a Believer. Beseech the divine help of Allah Ta'ala for all those who are in difficulty especially those affected by the pandemic.

Sadaqah - Charity repels calamity. There are many who are vulnerable and desperate. We should adopt a generous approach and spend on the needy for the pleasure of Allah Ta'ala. The more we will give, the more favours we will enjoy.

Increase good actions - Perform Salah regularly, repair our broken relationships, seek forgiveness from those we have wronged and make good the monies we owe. Increase recitation of Quran Shareef, especially Yaseen Shareef, Durood Shareef and other duas of protection.

Be responsible - Ensure that we are looking after our health and remain sensitive towards others. Follow the advices of medical experts. A Muslim should be a source of comfort for others.

May Allah Ta'ala grant all protection and bring an end to the pandemic.

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Beirut masjids continue to run despite 2020 struggles

Masjids in the Lebanese capital Beirut are continuing to keep their doors open despite many of them being severely damaged by the 2020 port blast in the city.

A total of 10 masajid were damaged on 4 August 2020 when tonnes of ammonium nitrate stored in the area exploded and killed more than 200 people. Several thousands were also injured, while the damage caused is estimated at roughly 15 billion USD.

Cost of the damage to the mosques is estimated at between 4-5 million USD, but only a fraction of the funds needed for repairs has been secured, mainly through local and international donations...[READ MORE](#)

Court takes landmark decision to deter bullying

South Africa: Bullying is a big problem at schools and this week a magistrate in KwaZulu-Natal court made a real statement that they hope will deter this behaviour, especially at schools.

A 16-year-old schoolgirl from the Mathole High School in Mahlabathini was given a community-based sentence of 12 months after she was convicted of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm last month.

The matter related to an assault of a pupil at her Zululand district that went viral in September last year...[READ MORE](#)

UK school textbooks withdrawn due to misinformation

International book publisher, Pearson, has opted to pause distribution of two textbooks used by secondary schools in Britain due to distorted information that appear in the literature on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

A group of academics said in a report that the books - titled Conflict in the Middle East and The Middle East: Conflict, Crisis and Change and written by author Hilary Brash - had deliberately omitted historical records and failed to offer pupils a balanced view on the region...[READ MORE](#)

The Kaaba and Grand Mosque fragrances 10 times a day

The Grand Mosque and Kaaba are perfumed with high quality fragrances ten times a day, Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported.

Fragrance is applied to the Kaaba and is used in the mosque more regularly during special occasions such as the holy month of Ramadan, days of Hajj and on Fridays.

Perfuming the Grand Mosque and the Kaaba is seen as an act of service and reverence for Islam's holiest site and those visiting it.

It aims to provide an atmosphere of spirituality and holiness to the thousands of people who visit, pray and perform Umrah pilgrimage at the mosque.

Sixty incense burners are used daily to burn 60kg of oud in the mosque...[READ MORE](#)

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Period of waiting and mourning for a Muslim wife
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Method of licking the fingers after eating

Cleaning the fingers after eating by licking them is a Sunnah of Rasulullah ﷺ. Hazrat Ka'b bin Malik ؓ narrates that **Rasulullah ﷺ used to eat with three fingers and when he ﷺ completed eating he ﷺ would lick his (blessed) fingers.** (Sahih Muslim)

In another Hadith, Hazrat Abu Hurayrah ؓ narrates that Nabi ﷺ said, **"When you partake of meals, lick your fingers (after eating) because you do not know in which of them is the Barakah."** (Sahih Muslim)

The method of doing this has been outlined in the Hadith. Certain narrations indicate that Nabi ﷺ used to lick his (blessed) fingers in the following order: **First the middle finger, then the index finger and lastly the thumb.**

Hazrat Ka'b bin Ujrah ؓ narrates, **"I saw Nabi ﷺ eating with three fingers which were the thumb, the index and the middle finger. Thereafter I saw him licking them in the following sequence; first the middle finger, then the index finger and lastly the thumb."**

(Al Mu'jamul Awsat lit Tabrani)

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Illegal Dumping

Among the various challenges facing civil society, illegal dumping has become a major concern in many areas. Some residents dump their refuse illegally in a public space causing pollution and inconvenience to fellow neighbours and residents.

Illegal dumping is a serious offence and if apprehended the perpetrator is responsible for the removal of the refuse and can face a fine.

Rasulullah ﷺ said, **"Verily Allah is pure and loves purity. He is clean and loves cleanliness. He is generous and loves generosity. He is hospitable and loves hospitality. So clean your courtyards ..."** (Tirmizi)

Islam teaches cleanliness. This is a fundamental lesson and trait of a Muslim. Dumping causes inconvenience to others. Rasulullah ﷺ said three times, **"By Allah, he does not have faith!"** It was said, **"Who is it, O Messenger of Allah?"** Nabi ﷺ said, **"He whose neighbour is not safe from his harm."** (Sahih Bukhari)

A Muslim should be cognisant of the severe warnings have been sounded for those who cause inconvenience to others, especially neighbours. It is sad and regrettable that Muslim residents are guilty of dumping in their areas thereby causing inconvenience to others and creating a poor example of Muslims and Islam. Not following the proper procedure/days in removing the refuse also causes inconvenience to fellow neighbours and residents.

TA'ZIYAT

Giving comfort to the bereaved



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What to do upon a death

The demise of a person is a sad and trying time for those close to the deceased. It is important for those responsible to undertake the responsibility that results from the demise of their family member.

1. Upon the demise of a person, recite **Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi Rajioon**. This dua may also be recited: **Allahumma' jurni fee musabatee waakhluף lee khairam minha**

2. Attend to the following immediately:
 a. **Close the mouth** by tying a piece of cloth from below the chin around the head (so that the mouth remains closed)
 b. **Close the eyes** gently - recite Bismillah wa ala millati Rasulillah
 c. **Tie the feet** together with a strip of cloth so that they do not move apart... [READ MORE](#)

Muaz bin Jabal ؓ

Name: Muaz bin Jabal

Title: Abu Abdillah Al Ansaari Al Khazraji

He was one of the seventy Ansaar companions present at the second Bay'atul Aqabah (pledge taken at a place called Aqabah). He participated in the Battle of Badr and all the subsequent expeditions. Rasulullah r sent him to Yemen as a judge and a teacher.

Hazrat Umar, ibn Abbas, Ibn Umar and others ؓ narrate Hadith from him. He accepted Islam at the approximate age of 18. He was appointed as the governor of Syria by Hazrat Umar ؓ after Hazrat Abu Ubaydah ؓ.

He passed away in the plague of Amwaas in 18 AH at the approximate age of 33.

Virtues - most knowledgeable in terms of Halaal and Haraam

Hazrat Anas bin Malik ؓ narrates that Rasulullah ﷺ said, **"... The most knowledgeable of them with regards to Halaal and Haraam is Muaz bin Jabal ؓ ..."** (Tirmizi)

An excellent man

Hazrat Abu Hurayrah ؓ narrates that Rasulullah ﷺ said, **"...How excellent a man is Muaz bin Jabal ؓ..."** (Tirmizi)

Glad tiding of love

Hazrat Muaz ؓ narrates that Rasulullah ﷺ held his hand and said, **"O Muaz! By Allah, verily I love you. By Allah, verily I love you..."** (Abu Dawood)



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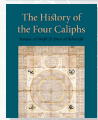
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Q&A

Q Many families have lost beloved family members due to Covid 19. This will be the first Eid after their demise. Should they celebrate Eid as they would every year?

A The period of mourning after demise is three days. The wife shall observe the Iddat period of 4 months and ten days. Eid should be celebrated as normal if the period of mourning has passed by. Wear one's best clothes and celebrate Eid in accordance with the Sunnah.

Q Can you please explain what is fidyah?

A Fidyah is the compensation paid for each missed fast by a very old person who does not have the physical strength to fast or a person who suffers from a debilitating illness with no apparent hope of recovering from the illness. The amount per missed fast is the same as Sadaqat Fitr.

Those who have hope of recovery and are able to fast in future must keep the missed fasts (make Qadha) as they are able to do so after Ramadan. Fidyah will not be valid in this case

Q Can the six fast of Shawal be kept intermittently during the month or must they be kept consecutively?

A The fast may be kept consecutively or intermittently.

Q Can multiple fast intentions be joined with the fast of Shawal e.g. the fasting on Mondays and Thursdays joined with the intention of Shawal fast?

A Yes, multiple intentions can be made in non-compulsory fasts.

Q Must the Qaza for the missed fast of Ramadan be kept first, before keeping the Shawal fasts?

A It is preferred and more cautious that the Qaza be kept first. However, if the Shawal or other Nafl fasts are kept before the Qaza fasts then this will be valid.

Q Can the intention of the missed fast of Ramadan (due to illness, travel, menses or nifaas/post birth period) be joined with the Shawal fast?

A Compulsory fasts like Qaza fasts of Ramadan must be kept with the sole intention of that fast only.

Q There is a brother who has a Hindu wife who has not reverted to Islam. In the month of Ramadan will his fast be accepted if he does not have any intimacy with her e.g. they sleep together but do not touch one another?

A The union is haram and impermissible and the person is not considered his wife in terms of the Shariah. The Jurists say that if the person considers something haram as permissible then his very Imaan and faith is in jeopardy. However, if he considers this relationship Haram, and he fasts then his fasts will be valid.

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However, he should repent and end this relationship immediately, unless the woman accepts Islam.

Q I wanted to ask if women are allowed to wear costume/imitation jewelry or just pure gold and silver in Islam?

A Women are allowed to wear rings of gold and/or silver only. Rings made from other metals are not permitted.

Jewellery (artificial or otherwise) besides rings made from other metals may be worn by women.

Q Is it permissible to sell a Christian cross?

A It is not permissible for Muslims to sell the cross.

Q What is the virtue of passing away in Ramadan?

A The reward of passing away during Ramadan is similar to passing away on a Friday. There is great hope in Allah Ta'ala that such a person is saved from the punishment of the grave.

Q What is the ruling regarding taking children outdoors during asr/maghrib time?

A Hazrat Jaabir bin Abdillahi reports that Rasulullah ﷺ said that when evening approaches (i.e. the time just before maghrib till the night sets in), keep your children indoors and do not allow them to leave the home. The reason we are instructed to keep the children indoors and

not allow them to leave the home is because there are certain creations of Allah Ta'ala that roam about at that time. Hence, in order to save the children from the harms of these creations, we are advised to keep them indoors. Similarly, in the same Hadith Rasulullah ﷺ said: When a portion of the night passes, then you may allow your children to leave the home and cover all utensils and close all doors of the home (i.e. doors that are at the entrances or exits of the home) as Shaitaan does not enter homes where the doors are closed.

Q If the day of Eid has passed and has not yet paid his Sadaqatul Fitr, what should he do?

A If one did not discharge Sadaqatul Fitr on Eid day, he will not be absolved of his duty. He should thus pay it on any other subsequent day.

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.

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Whats Happening at Darul Ihsan

Darul Ihsan supports Cape Town rural Madrasah

Establishing and coordinating a madrasah in a rural area can be a thankless task.

But for the past two years Imam Mansoor Songezo Blie has tried to do just that, setting up a small madrasah at his family home in Assanda Village, Zola Township, which is an impoverished community in the Strand area of Cape Town.

Known as Ulwasi Nogonkelo ye Islam (UNyI) or Knowledge of The Religion of Islam, the madrasah currently accommodates 26 young learners, who range from the ages of 8-17.

Imam Mansoor has worked tirelessly to establish this learning centre. After evaluating the needs of this project, Darul Ihsan Centre has intervened to help the Imam to upgrade and enhance the madrasah. The present economic conditions make it difficult to sustain the project...[READ MORE](#)

Darul Ihsan arranges over 700 Iftar meals daily

Darul Ihsan is bracing itself for yet another busy Iftar Feeding Programme that will officially begin with the first day of Ramadan on Wednesday, 13 April 2021.

700 needy individuals across 12 venues in the greater Durban region will benefit daily during this auspicious month when fasting is observed by Muslims throughout the world.

"This is undoubtedly one of my highlights and the highlights for Darul Ihsan each year," Project Lead at the Feeding Department, Abdul Saeed Sheik, stated. "There is great virtue in feeding the hungry during the month of Ramadan and seeing so many empty stomachs being filled after a long day of fasting is extremely rewarding."

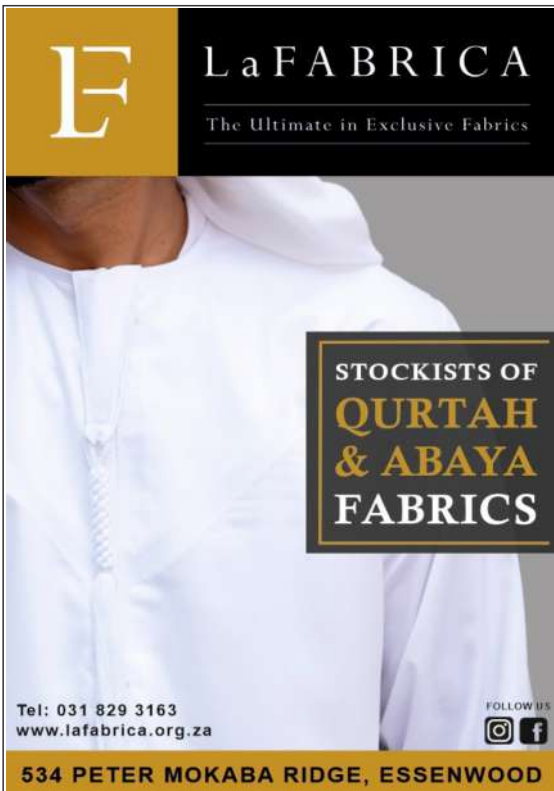
Each serving is made up of a hot meal, savouries, delicacies and a juice...[READ MORE](#)

Darul Ihsan Welfare Department assists over 700 desperate people

With an average of R1-million per month disbursed and 700 families and individuals assisted, the Darul Ihsan Welfare Department is continuing to fulfil its quest to help the poor.

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Now in its 20th year of existence, its main purpose is to effectively dispense the Zakah entrusted to it by thousands of donors annually...[READ MORE](#)



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6 Fasts of Shawwal

Hazrat Abu Ayoob Ansari ؓ reports that Rasulullah ﷺ said: “Whoever completes the fasts of Ramadan then adds to them the fasts of six days in the month of Shawwal, it will carry the reward of fasting for the whole year.” (Sahih Muslim)

Considering that there is at least ten-fold reward for every virtue, the fasts of Ramadan will equate to fasting for 300 days - ten months. Fasting for six days in Shawwal will be considered as fasting for 60 days - 2 months. This brings one the reward of fasting a full year. One who does this annually is like one who fasts throughout his life.

Although voluntary in nature, the reward for this effort is tremendous. One may keep these fasts consecutively or intermittently during the month.

Among the benefits of keeping the Shawwal fasts is that they make up for deficiencies that occurred in the obligatory Ramadan fasts. It is also a sign of acceptance of one's Ramadan fasts and a sign of commitment to continue upon good deeds.

Who can pay Fidyah for missed fasts ?

Fidyah is the Arabic term for compensation for one who was unable to fast in Ramadan. Only that person who has no hope of fasting again, like the very old and chronically or terminally ill, will pay Fidyah for missed fasts. Persons who may have been excused from fasting due to temporary illness or travel must make Qadha (for the missed fasts).

The case of a pregnant/breastfeeding woman (or anyone else due to sickness or any other reason) who was unable to fast in Ramadan should make up for the fast once normal health is regained.

The notion of paying for missed fasts after a person has regained full health is incorrect. No compensation is allowed when one is able to fast. A concerted effort must be made to ensure that all missed fasts are kept in full. It is however advisable to make a bequest that if these Qadhas are not made-up in one's lifetime, then Fidyah should be given on one's behalf.

The amount of Fidyah per fast is the same as the amount for Sadaqatul Fitr.

NB. A woman who has missed fasts in Ramadan due to her monthly cycle should not delay in making up for the missed fasts as there is no guarantee of life.

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ظُرْفَةَ عَيْنٍ، وَأَصْلِحْ لِي شَأْنِي كُلَّهُ، لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ

O Allah, it is only Your mercy that I long for, thus do not entrust me to myself for the blink of an eye, and put all my affairs in order for me, there is none worthy of worship besides You. (Abu Dawood)



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OCCUPIED PALESTINE - BRUTE TERROR AGAINST AN INDOMITABLE SPIRIT!

Our brethren in Palestine have for several years been regularly assaulted by the Zionist regime in the month of Ramadhan. Attacking people with rubber bullets and sound grenades inside the precincts of the Al Aqsa mosque whilst they are praying is clearly an act of terror and indicative of a depraved mindset. The defilement of the mosque, the indiscriminate attack on women and children has become characteristic of the 'occupier and settler' mentality. The eviction of Palestinian families in the Sheikh Jarrah district demonstrates the extent of the inhumane and tyrannical character of the 'settler mentality'.

The illegal expansion of settlements, confiscation of land and the demolishing of homes is a grim reminder of how the apartheid apparatus in South Africa tried to crush the indomitable spirit of the oppressed masses. The dire consequences of the disastrous apartheid policies should serve as a grim reminder to Israel.

The triumph of persistence, the indomitable spirit of youth armed with faith and stones, the fearless resistance of women and children cannot be caged or contained indefinitely. History has shown that oppression cannot continue unabated.

As conflict, occupation, blockade, restrictions and exclusion continue to define the lives of Palestinians; we have a collective responsibility to pressure our government to exert pressure on the Israeli government directly and via various international forums. Our own apartheid experience requires that we lead the way in ensuring that Israel does not continue to enjoy political and legal impunity in its contemptuous treatment of an entire nation .

Yusuf Patel (MI)

10 May 2021

Visiting the Graveyard

Virtues & Etiquette



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Makkah Haram illuminated by more than 100,000 lights

Makkah Mukarramah: Saudi Arabia's Department of Operation and Maintenance of Field Affairs has revealed that a total of 120,000 lighting units illuminate the Haram in Makkah.

Amer Bin Awad Al-Luqmani, assistant director of the unit, revealed that the lights had been custom-manufactured for the Grand Mosque, reflecting the interest of the authorities to develop and improve facilities Islam's holiest site.

The lights, which come in outstanding sizes and shapes, cover the Haram, its courtyards, roof, and minarets.

Amongst them are a total of 304 chandeliers in the second Saudi expansion, which are all connected through a special control station. Some lighting units that illuminate with the word Allah also light the upper pillars of the architectural arches inside the mosque and its passages...[READ MORE](#)



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