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Eid Mubarak!

Jerusalem, PALESTINE - Israeli settlers, emboldened by soldiers restricting Palestinians under 40 to enter the mosque for Ramadan prayers, forced their way into the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in occupied East Jerusalem. Hundreds of young Palestinians filled the streets outside the mosque for their prayers. Earlier, Israeli police entered the mosque after Palestinians barricaded themselves inside the Al-Qibli Prayer Hall in the Al-Aqsa Mosque complex to stop Jewish settlers who wanted to enter the mosque complex to mark the week-long Jewish holiday of Passover. Muslim countries across the globe were unanimous in their condemnation of the Israeli police raids. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called on Israel to stop further fuelling the already tense situation in Palestine. Even Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he was "extremely concerned with the inflamed rhetoric coming out of the Israeli government." UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was "appalled" by the violence from Israeli forces against worshipers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque complex.

Medinah, SAUDI ARABIA – For the first time in many years, a man was executed during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. The Saudi national had been convicted of murder after he stabbed his victim and set him alight. This was the 17th execution in Saudi Arabia this year. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, said earlier that the death penalty would only be used for cases of murder or when someone "threatens the lives of many people".

Edinburgh, SCOTLAND - Humza Yousaf, a son of Pakistani migrants, became the first Muslim leader of a government in western Europe when he replaced Nicola Sturgeon as first minister. Yousaf, 37, narrowly won a Scottish National Party (SNP) leadership battle to secure the position. He pledged to restart the delayed efforts for Scotland to gain independence from the United Kingdom. SNP leaders said they were proud of Scotland becoming the first democracy in western Europe to appoint a Muslim person as its leader. Yousaf was the health minister in Sturgeon's last cabinet.

Kyiv, UKRAINE - President Volodymyr Zelensky announced that Ukraine was beginning a new tradition of hosting an official iftar, the meal breaking the daily fast during the holy month of Ramadan. "Ukraine is grateful to the Muslims of our country and to everyone in the Muslim community of the world who, like us, longs for peace and protection from evil," he added. Zelensky also criticised Russia's treatment of the Muslim-minority Tatar community in Kremlin-controlled Crimea and vowed to recapture the peninsula from Russia during this first official state iftar. Russia has a large Muslim minority from southern regions, including Chechnya and Dagestan, many of whom are fighting for Moscow in Ukraine.

Teheran, IRAN - Police announced plans to use smart technology in public places to identify and punish women who violated the country's strict Islamic dress code. They said in a statement that police would "take action to identify norm-breaking people by using tools and smart cameras in public places and thoroughfares". They would then send "the proof and warning messages to the violators of the hijab law" to "inform them about the legal consequences of repeating this crime". The number of women in Iran defying the compulsory dress code of covered hair and veils has been rapidly increasing after thousands of people protested the death in detention last year of Kurdish-Iranian Mahsa Amini, 22, for allegedly

disregarding this legal requirement. Iran's police chief, Ahmad-Reza Radan, said motor vehicle owners will also receive a warning if any of their passengers violate the dress code, and their vehicles will be seized if the offence is repeated.

Kabul, AFGHANISTAN – Authorities shut down a female-run radio for playing music during the holy month of Ramadan. Sadai Banowan, which means "women's voice" in the Dari language, is Afghanistan's only female-run station, started by ten women a decade ago. "If this radio station accepts the policy of the Islamic emirate of Afghanistan and gives a guarantee that it will not repeat such a thing again, we will allow it to operate again," said Moezuddin Ahmadi, the ruling Taliban's director for information and culture in Badakhshan province. The Taliban have taken a strong line on women in public activities and have banned high school and university education for girls.

SIX FAST OF SHAWWAAL

It is commendable to keep the six fast in the month of Shawwaal. Rasullullah ﷺ said : "If anyone who has kept the fasts in Ramadhaan, follows them up with six(optional) fasts of Shawwaal then (he will get reward for the fasts of a year but if he does that always) it is as if he fasted all his life. (Muslim)

It is more preferable to start these fasts from the 2nd of Shawwaal and keep fasting until the 7th of Shawwaal, however it is permissible to keep these fasts any time during the month of Shawwaal.

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Reaping our benefits on this day of **EID**

by: *Moulana Naasik Ahmad Mohamed (Burood)*

Our inclination as humans is in fact to engage in good, we are made in a way that our natural outlook wants to engage in goodness. During Ramadan, we searched and strived to do good in all our moments of the day. Ramadan showed us what we were capable of, and what our natural disposition is. Today we bid farewell to Ramadan and when we look back, we see that we have trained our souls in virtue and accustomed it to dignity during this past month. We have taught ourselves to neglect vices and sins and acquire all good attributes. Whoever witnesses Ramadan without gaining any of its rewards is indeed poor, and nothing cripples him other than negligence, laziness, procrastination, and false hopes. Many of us will inevitably try to hold onto the 'spirit of Ramadan' for as long as possible, i.e.

* The powerful connection to Allah Almighty

* The revived relationship with the Holy Qur'an,

* The feeling of being productive and active with our worship

However, the good habits we developed during the blessed month will sometimes be forgotten until the next Ramadan – we may be too busy, distracted, unmotivated, or simply forget about them. Whatever it may be, we need to do our level best to ensure that we keep these good habits going.

One of the signs of an accepted season of fasting is that our life changes even if that were to mean just a few inches. The main thing is that at least our life has found some change for the better. If your life changes for your good, your Ramadan was correct. However, if our life goes back to what it was before Ramadan then we have just wasted our Ramadan. When we look at this day of Eid, we need to ask ourselves what we have attained through Ramadan. For some Ramadan is a training camp to get our lives in gear and use this opportunity to reform ourselves. If we have not made any change during this Ramadan then we have remained stagnant on the mindset that I need to be a Muslim mainly in Ramadan and once Ramadan is complete then my spiritual journey can be on pause. This mentality is incorrect and if we do not set it straight then we are saying that we have lost hope in the mercy of Allah Almighty. It is sad to see that people do so much good in Ramadan as though it is the only month to be a Muslim and that the remaining 11 months are covered up in that one month. When Ramadan ends then it does not mean that our servitude to Allah Almighty should end. We should continue to devote ourselves to the worship of Allah Almighty. Today is the day of Eid and it symbolizes piety and determination. The philosophy of Eid is not just celebrating the end of fasting, but rather continuing on one's spiritual journey.

Ramadan is a training period. Once we have completed our training we graduate so that we can advance our training. The training is gaining self-control and attaining Taqwa. Once that is completed then we can devote ourselves to worshipping Allah Almighty and we become enthusiastic to leave no stone unturned to do what is right and refrain from what is wrong. Allah Almighty says: "So when you have completed (the training period) then devote yourself in Allah Almighty's worship. And turn to your Lord with enthusiasm." (S 94: V 7-8)

Allah Almighty uses the term "RABB" in this verse. The Arabic word RABB has a connection to TARBIIYAH (to nurture). Allah Almighty is our nurturer and wants to nurture us to be devoted to Him and turn to Him enthusiastically. When Allah Almighty uses the word RABB, it means

* He wants us to train and continue training our hearts to align them with the teaching that He is giving us

* Just as we have Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) in psychology, Allah Almighty gives us the same or a similar form of psychological training whenever He uses the word RABB (Nurturer) in the Holy Quran

Eid is a day of celebration and rejoicing. In Islam, every time there is a happy occasion, we celebrate it by increasing acts of worship and acquiring the pleasure of Allah Almighty. For example, when it comes to weddings, it is a happy occasion and we celebrate it with the Khutbah of Nikaah. When it comes to Jumma Salaah, we celebrate this occasion with the two Khutbahs that are not in the other Fard Salaah during the other days. When it comes to Eid, the happiness of a Muslim is shown by extra worship and thus we have Eid Salaah etc. Look at the other Eid that we will celebrate in the next two and half months from now. We will be making Qurbaani (sacrifices) which is extra worship done solely for the pleasure of Allah Almighty. This is how we as Muslims are taught to declare our happiness. We have never been taught to celebrate a happy occasion by doing things that are displeasing to Allah Almighty. Sometimes we become involved in gluttony to the degree that we eat as though we are doing Qadha of what we have missed in the month of Ramadan. If that is the case then we have missed the point of Eid and the essence of Eid. We know that it is a day of eating but it is not a day of gluttony. It is not a day wherein we are supposed to eat until we get sick. That is not Eid!!! Eid is a day when we are conscious of Allah Almighty and thank Him for having given us a beautiful season of Ramadan. It is for this reason that Eid is referred to as the day of prize giving. In one narration, it is mentioned: "When it is the day of Eid-ul-Fitr, the angels stand in the entrance of the roads and call out: 'O Muslims! Come to the Merciful Lord who will give you bounties and will reward you in abundance. You were commanded to fast during the day and fasted, and obeyed your Lord, so take your rewards. When they have performed the Eid Salaah, a caller from the heavens will call out, "Return to your homes. Verily all your sins have been forgiven, and that day in the sky is called the Day of Reward/Prize-giving.'"

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Sadaqatul Fitr is a special charity of the month of Ramadan. This charity should be given **during the month of Ramadan anytime before the Eid-ul-Fitr prayer**. Because it can be given until the Eid-ul-Fitr time it is called Sadaqatul Fitr. The Prophet peace be upon him urged Muslims to pay this charity in the month of Ramadan.

Why to give Sadaqatul Fitr?

Various reasons are given by scholars for this charity. Some say that this charity **helps the poor and needy and takes care of their needs** in the month of Ramadan and also makes it possible for them to celebrate the Id festival with other Muslims.

Another view is expressed that this charity is to **atone (as a kaffara) for any mistakes or omissions a person might have done during this blessed month**.

Ibn 'Abbas said: The Prophet peace be upon him enjoined Sadaqatul Fitr so that those who fast are purified of their errors and the poor and needy people are enabled to arrange for their basic needs of food, clothing etc. Therefore the Sadaqa of the person who gives before the Id prayer is the real Sadaqa, but if someone delays and gives it afterward his charity will be an ordinary charity (reported by Abu Dawud and Ibn Majah).

Sadaqatul Fitr is **obligatory upon every Muslim**, whether male or female, minor or major, who possesses property over and above his basic needs and requirements, amounting to the Nisab for Zakat, whether it is subject to Zakat or not. The amount of Nisab for Zakat is about 80 grams of gold or its equivalent in cash value. The head of the household must pay this amount on behalf of his/her own self and on behalf of their spouse, children and even servants.

How much to pay as Sadaqatul Fitr?

The amount of sadaqatul fitr was fixed by the Prophet peace be upon him. It is about **5 pounds of wheat, flour, barley, dates or raisins**. Jurists also allow paying cash to the poor and needy. The head of the household must pay this amount on behalf of all the members or the dependant, males or females, adults or

children.

This sadaqa should be given during Ramadan any time but before the Eid-ul-Fitr prayers. The sadaqa should be given to the poor and needy. Individuals can also make the payments to Islamic charitable organizations that collect this fund. These organizations then should distribute these funds as soon as possible so that they reach to the needy people in time.

The following points must be remembered concerning the payment of Sadaqat-ul-fitr.

1. Sadaqat-ul-fitr is obligated on each adult male or female separately, and the relevant adult person himself is responsible to pay it. The husband is not required to pay Sadaqat-ul-fitr on behalf of his wife nor is the wife supposed to pay it on behalf of her husband. Similarly, a father is not bound to pay Sadaqat-ul-fitr on behalf of his adult children or vice-versa. However, if the head of the family, by his own free will, wishes to pay Sadaqat-ul-fitr for each one of the members of his family, he should seek their authorization for that purpose. In this case the Sadaqat-ul-fitr paid by him will be valid on their behalf. If he did not pay the Sadaqat-ul-fitr on behalf of any of the members of his family, he will not be responsible for it. Rather, it is the duty of every adult member of the family to discharge his own obligation or to request the head of the family to pay it on his or her behalf.
2. It is a Sunnah that the Sadaqat-ul-fitr is paid before performing the 'Eid prayer. It can also be paid before the 'Eid day, but it is not advisable to delay it up to the performance of 'Eid prayer. However, if a person has failed to pay on its proper time, he should pay it as soon as possible, whereby the obligation will stand discharged.
3. The Sadaqat-ul-fitr is not necessary on behalf of a child who was born after the break of dawn in the 'Eid day, nor is it necessary to pay Sadaqat-ul-fitr on behalf of a person who dies before the dawn of the Eid day.
4. Sadaqat-ul-fitr should be paid only to a person who is entitled to receive Zakah.

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Eid-ul-Fitr

The Festival

The following is Mustahab on Eid's Day:

- To trim the nails
- To have a bath
- To brush the teeth with a Miswaak
- To wear nice clothing- preferably new, if not, then freshly washed clothing
- To use Attar (scent)
- To perform Fajr Salaah in the Masjid
- To pay Fitra before the Eid Salaah
- To walk to the Masjid or Eid Gah in one route and to return on another
- To eat dates or something sweet before going for the Eid Salaah
- To express joy and donate generously
- To recite the Takbeer on route to the Eid Gah or Masjid

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ط
اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَاللَّهُ أَحْمَدُ ط

Allahu Akbar Allahu Akbar. Laa Illaha Illalahu
Wal Laahu Akbar. Allahu Akbar Wa Lillahil Hamd

"Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest. There is none worthy of worship besides Allah and Allah is the Greatest and to Allah belongs all Praise.

The Eid Salaah

The Eid Salaah is Waajib upon every person on whom the Jummah Salaah is Waajib. There are only two Rakaats in the Eid Salaah. These two Rakaats are offered as an expression of thanks to the Almighty Allah for giving us the strength, courage Taufeeq to keep fast, perform Taraweeh and I'tikaf etc. during the Mubarak month of Ramadhaan. This is also where Allah rewards us for our fast, patience and sacrifices.

Niyah- Intention

Before beginning the Eid Salaah, ensure that you have Wudhu. Say the Niyah as follows:

نَوَيْتُ أَنْ أُصَلِّيَ لِلَّهِ تَعَالَى رَكَعَتَيْنِ
صَلَاةَ عِيدِ الْفِطْرِ مَعَ سِتَّةِ تَكْبِيرَاتٍ
اِقْتَدَيْتُ بِهَذَا الْإِمَامِ مُتَوَجِّهًا إِلَى جِهَةِ الْكَعْبَةِ الشَّرِيفَةِ ط

Nawaytu an usalliya Lillahi Ta'aala
Rak'ataini ma'a Sittati Takbeeraati Salaata
Eidil Fitri Iqtadaytu Behaazal Imaami Mutawajjihhan
Ila Jihatil Ka'batish Shareefah.

"Oh Allah I am performing two Rakaats Eid-ul-Fitr Salaah with six extra Takbeers for You, as a follower behind this Imam facing towards the Holy Ka'bah.

Method of the Eid Salaah

After the Imam says the first Takbeer (Takbeer-e-Tahreema), recite Thanaa (SubhanakAllah Humma). Thereafter the Imam will say three extra Takbeers, raising the hands to the ears each time and releasing them to your side after the first and second extra Takbeers. Now, after the third extra Takbeer, fold and place your hands below the navel. The Imam will read Surah Fatiha and a Surah and complete the Rakaat in the usual manner.

In the second Rakaat after Surah Fatiha and the Surah, before going into Ruku, the Imam will say three extra Takbeers, raising your hands to the ear and releasing them to the sides each time. Thereafter, the Imam will say Allahu Akbar and go into Ruku, complete the Salaah in the usual manner.

After the Salaah the Imam will make a Duaa, and deliver a Khutba. There is no Azaan nor Iqaamah for the Eid Salaah.

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UPDATE ON

PAKISTAN

by: Moulana Muhammad Hussain Noori



Compiled By: Shireen Ismail

A Deadlock persists between the government and opposition over backdoor dialogues as Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz seeks guarantees that whatever is decided will be accepted by Imran Khan. The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has also become active to end the deadlock. On Monday, former president and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari urged Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to hold talks with the opposition party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) while addressing the Convention on the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the 1973 Constitution, saying, "I will request PM Shehbaz Sharif to hold talks with the opposition and set no conditions before they begin talks, the nation cannot afford any odd situation". Negotiations will be held between both the government and opposition after an assurance of a 'guarantee', as both sides are lacking trust in each other.

Earlier this week, the Joint Sitting of Parliament passed the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Bill 2023, which aims to curtail the Suo Motu powers of office of the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP). All this after Pakistan's Supreme Court declared the election commission's decision to postpone provincial assembly elections in Punjab as "unconstitutional" and fixed 14th May as the date for polls in the country's most popular province. This bill was passed amid strong protest by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) law makers. The Supreme Court Practice and Procedure bill 2023 has been challenged in the Supreme Court by Advocate Muhammad Shaafi Munir. The plea filed in the Supreme Court stated that the bill shall be declared illegal and unconstitutional. It further stated that only the Supreme Court has the authority to change or make its rulings.

Under the new legislation, the decision for Suo Motu notice will be taken by three senior judges of the Supreme Court. Moreover, the bill also included a clause regarding the right to appeal against the decision, which was not the case previously and which could be filed within 30 days and fixed for a hearing in two weeks. It added that the party will be allowed to change its lawyer in a Suo Motu case. Under Article 184, the matter will be presented before a judges committee. The committee will review the case and later form a five-member committee for any kind of constitutional interpretation. The act will be taken into effect on all verdicts of the high courts and the Supreme Court.

President Dr. Arif Alvi had returned the 'judicial reforms' bill for reconsideration to the Parliament as per the provisions of Article 75 of the Constitution.

According to Fawad Chaudhry, there are only two case scenarios, the elections will take place or the Prime minister and his cabinet will have to resign. The third case is that the Supreme Court will be dissolved.

Senior Judge of the Supreme Court, Justice Qazi Faez Isa called on Chief Justice of Pakistan, Umar Ata Bandial a day after the former attended a special national constitutional convention at the National Assembly.

The meeting which was held shortly before Iftar continued in a pleasant atmosphere where both judges had a detailed discussion on important judicial issues. Justice Isa issued his clarification on attending a special national constitutional convention at the National Assembly held to mark the golden jubilee of the Constitution of Pakistan, after consulting with CJP Bandial. The top court judge was severely criticized for being seated in the front row along with the politicians belonging to the ruling coalition. Justice Isa however said that he did not choose to sit there but he was shown respect as a senior member of the judiciary and offered a seat at the center.

On April 4, the Supreme Court set April 10 as the deadline for the government to disburse Rs21 billion in funds to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and told the ECP to report back to it on April 11. Meanwhile, the government has referred the matter to Parliament to decide as it stands firm upon the idea that the reason there can't be elections is due to the lack of funds. In a notice issued by the SC registrar today, the apex court issued notices to the SBP governor, finance secretary, AGP and directed them to appear before the chamber of the judges on Friday, April 14 at 11am. It also directed them to bring the record and details of money owned by the federal government. The top court noted that the report submitted by the election commission yesterday stated that "no funds have at all been released and provided to it as required by the order of the Supreme Court". It observed that the failure of the federal government to comply with the order of the court as aforesaid is prima facie disobedience.

Another pressing issue is that the Azad Kashmir High Court has disqualified Prime Minister Tanveer Ilyas to be unfit as Prime Minister.

The court had summoned AJK PM Tanveer Ilyas in a contempt notice taken on his speech at a public meeting criticizing the stay orders and said the practice was affecting the performance of the government. The bench also sentenced the regional prime minister for contempt of court. Thereafter, Tanveer Ilyas had reached out to the Azad Kashmir Supreme Court, against his disqualification decision made by the high court. However, the Supreme Court Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) had dismissed the former Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas's petition against his disqualification.

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"O Mankind ! Eat of the lawful and good things from what is in the earth, and follow not the evil. Surely he is an open enemy to you (S2: V168)



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Quds Day 2023

by: Firoz Osman



On the last Friday of Ramadan millions throughout the world rise in solidarity with Palestine in commemoration of Quds Day.

Given the brutality of the Zionist regime as it repeatedly storms Al Aqsa and unleashes violence on Muslim worshippers, this year's Quds Day events are expected to focus on the need to defend Al Aqsa for this sacred Masjid is at the heart of Palestinian Resistance.

It is thus essential to deconstruct this cancerous regime called Israel.

The fundamental ideology underpinning Israel is Zionism that was spawned in Europe over a hundred years ago. This ideology is totally different from Judaism.

Zionism is committed to establish in the country of Palestine an exclusive Jewish supremacist state that guarantees a demographic majority of ethnic Jews in Palestine, with the mass expulsion of the Palestinian people from their land.

In this month of Ramadan, as has happened before, we have witnessed heroic Resistance by unarmed, valiant men, women and youth against the Zionist occupiers.

We have seen Israeli criminal soldiers running across al Aqsa breaking a woman's arm for going to pray there; firing bone-shattering bullets; pushing and kicking a man on crutches until he falls, beating up a father in front of his son at the mosque, and the abuse and dishonoring of our sisters and mothers.

And We have seen the body of a woman of 6 children, a widow, who was almost blind, shot dead in cold blood. And they killed a qualified medical doctor who just returned from Rumania. He was protecting a woman who was being beaten up by Israeli soldiers in the Al Aqsa mosque. They pumped him with 20 bullets.

His mother said when she held his body with tears running down her cheeks that they waited for 7 years for him to get his medical degree. He now has a better degree from Allah swt- a degree of martyrdom to Jannah!

Palestinians have clearly demonstrated that they refuse to accept their enslavement, and choose to resist with incredible courage. They will rather die standing on their feet, resisting the oppressors with honour, than to remain on enslaved on their knees for the rest of their lives.

It requires faith, discipline and fearlessness in our quest for justice and vanquish the enemy. To compromise on a principle leads to injustice.

Until the emergence of Islamic Jihad and Hamas in 1987, the Resistance movements under the PLO, Fatah, DFLP and others against Zionist oppression were mainly secular. These factions were also rivals belonging to various ideologies, and manipulated by the different secular Arab countries.

Just last year a Resistance movement known as the "Lions' Den", Areen al-Usud emerged in the Occupied West Bank in Jenin, Nablus and al Quds. Their young fighters have gained hero-like status.

The Lions' Den, however, seems to have increased in number, and has already branched out to Jenin, Al-Khalil (Hebron), Balata and elsewhere. For Israel and the PA, the Lions' Den is an unprecedented problem, the consequences of which threaten to change the political dynamics in the occupied West Bank completely.

For us to accept the very concept of the state of Israel means condoning the ethnic cleansing and genocide that Zionist militias and terrorist gangs conducted to drive out Palestinians from their homes and land.

It means condoning the Israeli occupation of Palestine which began in 1948 and its inexorable colonization and expansion with ongoing destruction, massacres, bombs and bullets, committing war crimes and crimes against humanity.

There can never be a state of Israel on the land of Palestine.

When we hear the cry of the Palestinians utter-bi ruh, bi dam, nafdika ya Aqsa-with our souls and our blood, we will defend you Aqsa- when it will be voiced on every platform, every mimbar, every protest, sincerely and fearlessly, we will realize the liberation of Al Aqsa, of Muslims and the oppressed.

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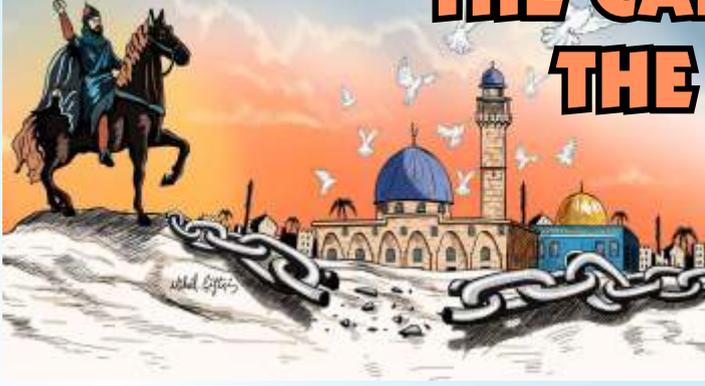
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THE CALL OF SALAHUDDIN THE HOLY WARRIOR



His Letter to the Muslim Ummah

Following is a letter written by Sultan Salah ad-Din Ayyubi when he started his Jihad against the crusaders more than 9 centuries ago:

"We hope in Allah most high, to whom be praise, who leads the hearts of Muslims to calm what torments them and ruins their prosperity.

Where is the sense of honor of Muslims? The pride of Believers? The Zeal of the Faithful?

We shall never cease to be amazed at how the disbelievers for their part have shown trusts, and it is the Muslims who have been lacking in zeal. Not one of them has responded to the call. Not one intervenes to straighten what is distorted; but observe how far the Franks have gone what unity they have achieved. What aims they pursue. What help they have given. What sums of money they have borrowed and spent. What wealth they have collected and distributed and divided amongst them. There is not a King left in their lands or islands, not a lord or a rich man who has not competed with his neighbors to produce more support and rival his peers in strenuous military efforts. In defense of their religion they consider it a small thing to spend life and soul; and they have kept their infidel brothers supplied with arms and champions of war; and all they have done and all their generosity has been purely out of zeal for him they worship in jealous defense of their faith.

The Muslims on the other hand are weak and demoralized; they have become negligent and lazy, the victims of unproductive stupefaction and completely lacking in enthusiasm. If, Allah forbid, Islam should draw rein, obscure her splendor, blunt her sword, there would be no one, east or west, far or near who would blaze the zeal for Allah's religion, or choose to come to the aid of truth against error.

This is the moment to cast off laziness, to summon from far and near all those men who have blood in their veins; but we are confident (he speaks about himself and the small party of believers who began with him and then became a large party); but we are confident, thanks to Allah -Alhamdulillah- in the Help that will come from him and entrust ourselves to him in sincerity of purpose and deepest devotion.

In sha Allah, the disbelievers shall perish and the faithful have a sure deliverance." — Salahuddin Ayyubi 12 CE

"After I die, you will see these Muslims fall apart in disunity, and you will see the Europeans grow strong. The best thing to do for

now is to continue the fight until we drive them from the Coast (of Palestine) or die."

These are the Ominous words of Sultan Salah ad-Din about our Ummah. Salahuddin Ayyubi stated this after King Richard of England proposed that Salahuddin Ayyubi's brother, Sayf ad-Din (popularly known as "Safadin" in the West), should marry his siter Joanna. So admirable was Salahuddin Ayyubi's character that his worst enemy who had traveled over 2000 miles to eliminate him, ended up offering his own sister to his family. This is the result of Perfect Islâmic "Akhlâq" and "Adab".

Also, Salahuddin Ayyubi stated in regards to the troubles he endured uniting the entire Muslim world under one banner:

"I do not know what will happen to me, if Allâh wills that the enemy should grow strong. They have established a base from which they can retrieve other lands. you will see these Muslim leaders sitting at the tops of their grandiose towers saying, 'I shall not come down,' until the Muslim world will be destroyed."

How did Salahuddin Ayyubi destroy his enemies, drive the Franks from Jerusalem and most of Palestine, and be written of so well by the European historians whose people he defeated? This is how:

"On July 3 Salâh ad-Dîn performed the Friday prayer in the Mosque of al-Aqsa, He was seen prostrating and repeating his prayers over and over again as his tears soaked the prayer mat."

On February 20, 1193, Salahuddin Ayyubi rode out to meet the Pilgrims returning from the Hajj in Makkah al-Mukarrama. He had longed to perform the Hajj his entire life, but the constant Jihâd did not allow such. That night he fell ill and broke out into a tempestuous fever. On the fourth day of his illness they had him bled, which was a tradition of the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be Upon him). Salahuddin Ayyubi would not stop sweating. On the ninth day of his illness he stopped taking liquids. By March 3 on the eleventh day of his illness, Salahuddin Ayyubi had sweat so much that the bed was soaked and the floor stained. The scholars who witnessed this testified to it being a match to the description of a good death in the Sunnah.

On the morning of March 4, 1193, the Imâm Abû Ja'far was reciting from the Qur'ân as Salahuddin Ayyubi's son al-Afdal, and his friend and administrator al-Fâdil, as well as others looked on. As the Imâm reached following verse of Sûrat at-Tawbah, the Qur'ânic chapter most associated with Jihâd:

حَسْبِيَ اللَّهُ لا إله إلا هو عليه توكلت وهو رب العرش العظيم
"Allah suffices me; there is no worship except for Him; only Him have I trusted, and He is the Lord Of The Great Throne."

Hadrat Salahuddin Ayyubi smiled from ear to ear, and breathed his last. Since Salahuddin Ayyubi had given most of his money away for charity when they opened his treasury, they found there was not enough money to pay for his funeral. And so Salahuddin Ayyubi was buried in a magnificent mausoleum in the garden outside the Umayyad Mosque in Damascus, Syria.



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OPEN AGENDA

by: Faizul Khamker

In the past when planning for the future the terms strategic planning or budgets were used. In the recent past we find the term agenda with a year attached to it becoming the vogue. Is this simply a change of terminology for the same thing or are there differences between the two terminologies? On closer examination there are differences. The old terminology had utilised the current position as a basis from which to develop from, whereas the new terminology wishes to create a new position by systematically destroying the current position. This becomes clear when we look at these agendas such as the World Economic Forum's Agenda (vision) 2030 amongst others. It should be borne in mind that the objectives of these agendas has been well established in history and has played itself out in some or other form and generally failed.

The normal standard yardstick would be to gauge which of the two systems would provide benefit. This would entail that the role players must be scrutinized. In the new styled agendas, we find egocentric, bigots, unelected leadership, avaricious and inhumane people leading these agendas with the sole purpose of self-enrichment. There is also traits of anti-faith and pro satanic ideologies being promoted. This then becomes the setting for the classic battle between good and evil. Because greed, power and self-enrichment are the cornerstone of these so called agendas conflicting and differences will exist.

One of the oldest of these agendas is the aspiring of the destruction of Masjid Al Quds and replace it with the so called Temple Mount. Their original agenda date was seen as this decade. This is largely seen by many independent observers as the necessary preparatory work for the Anti-Christ (Dajjal). The orthodox and ultra-orthodox Jew neither believes nor accepts the principle of a homeland and therefore in principle opposes the Zionist. Taking into account their target date should we be surprised at the heightened aggressive and abusive approach to the Palestinians and Al Masjidul Aqsa. The co incidence of the Passover period with the month of Ramadaan should never be accepted as an excuse, applying logic at the lowest level would reject such spurious claims. The heightened actions of inhumanity by the Zionist regime even shocked their

international supporters and with a stronger condemnation together with an environment which did not allow the media to hide these atrocities under the rug these abusive actions ceased. The orthodox and ultra-orthodox Jews also have a "divinely ordained" date during this period where they expect their Messah/reformer to appear. In fact, many Rabbis have given their approval to Yanuka Rav Shlomo Yanduka as the awaited Messiah and went as far as obtaining red heifers for sacrifice from America.

However, there does appear to be any correlation between the actions and the cessation of brutalities of the Zionist and the appearance of Yanduka. The agenda of subjugating the people as part of the Zionist plan became an important element in the offensive against the brutalities, even though the subjugation had other objectives as well. This being in reference to Netanyahu attempts to bring the judiciary under his control.

The propagators of these agendas suffered a further loss in France where a political decision was made to increase the age of retirement of sixty years. This was done for two reasons. Firstly, to subjugate the people to the will of the governing class and secondly to provide breathing space for an ailing economy. The protest which ensued was massive and like the yellow vests protest reflects an awakening of Europeans from their slumber and comfort zones.

When these agendas are open it requires a certain amount of vigilance to detect it in order to enable a positive and effective counter. We should therefore not allow the many detractions available to deviate our focus from the more important issues to the insignificant ones, such as futile

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Women of Sufism

by: Shireen Ismail



An important city of the Islamic world was Nishapur which is in the region of Khorasan, in what is now eastern Iran. It was one of the active centres of culture and learning during the ninth, tenth, and eleventh centuries. Many Sufis travelled to Nishapur to study with the scholars and wise teachers. Descriptions of three great Women of Sufism from Nishapur follows.

Aisha during the tenth century in Nishapur was best known for her spiritual states and for her prayers being answered. Her daughter once said of her, my mother said to me: "Oh daughter, do not take pleasure in that which perishes, and do not anguish over that which vanishes. Rather, take pleasure in God, and be anxious about falling out of God's favour." She also heard her say: "Commit yourself to good conduct (adab) both outwardly and inwardly; for whenever one transgresses the bounds of conduct outwardly, he is punished outwardly, and whenever one transgresses the bounds of conduct inwardly, he is punished inwardly." Aisha too said: "When one feels lonely in his solitude, this is because of his lack of intimacy with his Lord." She further said: "He who shows contempt for God's slaves shows his lack of knowledge of the Master. For he who loves the Craftsman glorifies the Craftsman's handiwork." She died in the year 346/957-58.

Fatima in the ninth century was a woman from one of the oldest families of Khurasan. She was one of the greatest female gnostics. Abu Yazid al-Bisami praised her, and Dhu an-Nun al-Misri sought her advice on doctrinal matters. She used to spend time devoted to worship in Mecca. Possibly she also went to Jerusalem and then returned to Mecca. There was no other woman like her in her time. It is related that she once sent Dhu an-Nun a gift. Dhu an-Nun sent it back to her and said: "Accepting the gifts of Sufi women is a sign of humiliation and seventy weakness." Fatima replied: "There is no Sufi in this world more lowly than one who doubts another's motives." Abu Yazid al-Bisami said: "In all of my life, I have only seen one true man and one true woman. The woman was Fatima of Nishapur. There was no station (on the way) about which I spoke with her, but that she had already experienced it herself." Dhu an-Nun said to her when they were together in Jerusalem: "Advise me." So she said to him: "Make truthfulness obligatory and mortify yourself in your actions and your words. God Most High has said: And when a matter is resolved, it would be best for them if 2 they were true to God (Qur'an, Surah Muhammad 47:21)." Ahmad ibn Muhammad ibn Miqdam reported with certification from Abu

Muhammad al-usayn ibn Ali Khalaf from Ibn Malul (a very aged shaykh who met Dhu an-Nun al-Misri), who related: I asked Dhu an-Nun, "Who is the most excellent person you have ever seen?" To which he replied, "I have never seen anyone more excellent than a woman I saw in Mecca who is called Fatima of Nishapur. She would discourse on subjects pertaining to the meaning of the Qu'ran." I asked Dhu an-Nun about her and he said: "She is a saint from among the friends of God, the Glorious and Mighty. She is also my teacher." Dhu an-Nun said: "I heard her say: 'When God ignores a person, he will wander aimlessly in every city square and will prattle constantly with every tongue. When God does not ignore a person, He silences him except for the truth and compels him to hold Him in reverence and sincerity.'" Dhu an-Nun said: Fatima of Nishapur said: "Today, the person who speaks the truth and the person who is aware of God finds himself in a wave-tossed sea. He calls upon his Lord with the prayer of the drowning man and asks his Lord to be saved and rescued." Fatima said: "One who acts for the sake of God while desiring to witness Him is agnostic (arif), whereas one who acts in the hope that God will notice him is the sincere believer (mukhlis)." Fatima (may God have mercy on her) died in Mecca in the year 223/838 while on her way to perform the lesser pilgrimage (Umrah).

Futayma lived during the ninth century period in Nishapur was the wife of Hamdun al-Qassar. She attained an elevated rank in her spiritual state and was highly regarded. It was reported that Futayma said: "The ethical rules of the Sufi in his relationship with others include: When a person seeks him he accepts him; when a person is away from him he does not forget about him; when a person associates with him he shapes his conduct; and when a person refuses to associate with him he will not force him to be his companion." Futayma was asked about the sage, she said: "The sage is one who revives your heart when you sit with him." Futayma also said: "When a person truly knows himself, his only characteristic is servitude, and he takes pride in nothing but his Master." In addition, she mentioned: "The fulfilment of the heart is in rejection of the world and the destruction of the heart is in reliance on humankind" and "When one reflects on the bestowal of God's bounties upon him, maintaining his gratitude for them should preoccupy that person from everything else."

Women of Sufism, A Hidden Treasure by Camille Adams Helminsk (2013)

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SAVE THE CHANGES



During the Mubarak and beautiful month of Ramadaan many have navigated themselves to the Deen of Allah and have brought about substantial positive deeni changes. Now is a critical time to click on the right tab- Save those changes!

Nearly everyone in this age of modern technology has at some stage worked with a P.C. We have used it to draft documents, amend these documents, copied and pasted onto documents, used the 'undo' icon, edited documents, just to mention a few of the time saving operations that we find on this device.

After opening a document that we have worked upon previously and made the necessary changes and improvements a little box appears on the screen asking the question: Do you want to save the changes you have made to this document? You are then given the option of selecting the YES tab or the NO tab. Selecting the YES tab will give you the desired results while selecting the NO tab literally takes you back to square one. All the effort made in editing, improving and shaping the document becomes an exercise in futility.

Don't we all find ourselves in a similar predicament when the blessed month of Ramadaan passes us? Just think of your book of deeds like a document on your P.C. During the month of Ramadaan we have done amongst other things the following-

- * Increased our Ibaadah and acts of charity;
- * Took control of our feelings and emotion;
- * Responded with compassion and sensitivity to the needs of other;
- * Multiplied our good deeds;
- * Repented: we have spent many hours on the Musallah begging for Allah's forgiveness for our sins, errors and transgressions.

The vital question that needs to be asked is: Do we want to save the changes that we have made in the month of Ramadaan? Are we going to press the YES tab or the No tab?

Pressing the YES tab will leave us with a new, improved version. A version of heightened spirituality, a version of righteousness, a version that is pleasing to our Creator. Pressing the NO tab will take us back to square one; back to our old habits before Ramadaan, back to the life of sin and immorality, back to a life of heedlessness and back to a life subjecting ourselves to the wrath of the Almighty.

How do we improve on this document; the document of our lives, the document of our deeds, the document that we are going to present to Allah the Almighty on the Day of Reckoning? Here are some hints: Copy and Paste from the life of our illustrious master Muhammad Sallallahu alayhi Wasallam.

Use the 'undo' icon by making Taubah immediately after any transgression as the Hadith states "The one who repents from sin is like one who has committed no sin at all"

There may not be a need to do a "spell check" but there is certainly a need to do a "sincerity check" and a "Shari'ah check"?

Are we complying?

There may be files and folders that we want to keep while there could be some others we would not even want others to know exist. Many of us begged Allah to "delete" our sins and dark deeds. We cried before Allah, shed tears of remorse and vowed not to commit those sins in future. Going back to the sins that we have asked Allah's forgiveness for would be like making a visit to the "recycle bin".

What about viruses? P.C. users are also very wary about e-mails they receive and the sites that they visit, fearing the admission of a virus that may pollute their system and cause it to malfunction. The environment and people who we associate with could adversely infect us! Why do we then subject our minds and thoughts to immoral sites and dens of vice which would pollute our moral system and cause us to malfunction? What anti-virus software have we installed to ward off the variety of Fitnahs that confront us everyday?

We need to install the right version of the anti-viruses. There is indeed only One version. Without delay install every Command of Allah and the Sunnah of Rasulallah (ﷺ) onto our harddrives (lives). This will allow us to repel the attempts by shaytaan and other evil forces to infect our PC's(souls).

It's Now time to Run the Programs...Begin By: Connecting ourselves to the right network. When we need an I.T solution we go to I.T specialist. We also in our lives need to consult with Ulama and pious people so that we are connected to the right network!

Delete ALL harmful programs Permanently! Lets Repent over past evil deeds and make a firm niyyah (intention) NEVER to Redo those evil deeds.

Ensure that the service provider provides the installation guide for the following programs to be run on your PC:

- Program 1: Dawat (Inviting ourselves, families, communities and humanity towards Allah and help Allah's Deen by striving for it)
- Program 2: Taalim (Learning and teaching Deen)
- Program 3: Ibaadat-Worship (Salaah, Haj, Umrah, Quran, Zikr, Dua and all other forms of Ibadat)
- Program 4: Khidmat- Acts of Charity (All acts Charity including Zakaah especially helping the Ummah in whatever possible way)

Now lets connect ourselves to Deen of Islam and the Amaal (good actions) that takes place in our Musjids...as no one knows when his or her PC will crash(when we will die)! By performing Good Deeds we will have Permanently Backed Up our records in Jannah (Paradise). Be careful not to engage ourselves in Evil lest we Back-Up our evil deeds in Jahannam (Hell)

Fortunate is the person who has "saved the changes". Extremely unfortunate is the person who has made no changes as he /she has nothing to save.!

IMPORTANT: As we don't know the time when our PC will shut down ...Make those Change Now and more important.....Save it!

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...FOR THE SAKE OF THY MESSENGER!

صلى الله
عليه
وسلم

irshad ahmed siddiqi

As the holy month lifts its shroud of mercy, bidding farewell, and night gives way to the morn of Shawaal, the air will be enchanted by the hailing of `takbeers` as the Muslim global nation embraces the coming of Eid-ul-Fitr.

A redemption of sorts, after a gruelling month of religious disciplines, dominated by surrender and restraints, humility and compassion, and arguably the most vibrant display of religious conformity and uniformity by mankind on earth.

For the countless things Ramadan meant, Eid is more than the victory celebration. It is the Divine response.

In the limited hours crammed into a single day, such holiness, warmth, tenderness, rejuvenation, bliss, and peace bears testimony.

Allah's Messenger Muhammad Mustafa ﷺ, the mercy unto all the worlds, used to stand the entire night preceding the day of Eid in deep worship and thanksgiving, invoking the absolute blessings of the Creator.

Somehow the image and presence of the Holy Messenger ﷺ cannot be removed from the beauty of this day. It was he who was glorified as the Lord's final Messenger on Laylatul Qadr, the Night of Power, unto whom, and when the first words of the Quran was communicated. It was he who demonstrated and lived the Quran. It was he who simplified the practical approach to a universal lifestyle, Islam, decreed and chosen for mankind, by Allah.

Just a recall on some of the incidents during his times relating to Eid, brings a flood of emotions and tears to the eyes.

A good time indeed to express prayers and greetings (Salawaat) upon such a caring benefactor, who dedicated his efforts towards the salvation of his followers.

This Eid, let this be our prayer, "O Allah, for the sake of Your honoured Messenger, our leader, our beloved Intercessor, deliver us to safety, victory, and success!"

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