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وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبُلِ اللهِ جَمِيعًاوَّلَا تَفَرَّقُوا

And hold on to the rope of Allah all together and be not divided

INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOCUS

Abuja, NIGERIA – People who engage in road rage beware if you break traffic rules in Nigeria! As the country struggles to reduce the number of road accidents. the Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps in Bauchi State, Yusuf Abdullahi, has called for the inclusion of Sharia Law in the prosecution of traffic offenders In a bid to stem the spate of road crashes in the country. He told the News Agency of Nigeria that the laws guiding road crashes are not stringent enough, hence the need for introduction of stiffer laws such as the Sharia Law into traffic rules. Abdullahi said the measure would instil discipline, encourage respect for traffic rules and promote safe road habits among motorists.

Volume 26 - No 11

Kuala Lumpur – MALAYSIA – A Hindu mother lost a High Court challenge to reverse her ex-husband's conversion to Islam of their three children without her consent. The case was further complicated by the fact that the mother was the child of an Indian Hindu father who was Hindu and a Chinese mother who was originally Buddhist but later converted to Islam. "Having regard to all the circumstances of the case, there is no evidence before me that the three children are not happy staying with the applicant," said Judge Datuk Wan Ahmad Farid Wan Salleh, who heard evidence that the children, even though in the custody of their mother, performed Salaat. One even said that he wanted to become a Shariah lawyer after he finishes his schooling.

Ottawa, CANADA - The Muslim Association of Canada (MAC), one of the largest Muslim organisations in the

country with affiliates countrywide, has taken a stand against alleged discrimination by the Canadian Revenue Agency against Muslim organisations. In its court submission, MAC said for almost two decades, the Agency has subjected the Muslim community to unwarranted targeting and discrimination which led to reduced support and donations to these Muslim organisations. The matter has also received the support of a number of non-Muslim civil society organisations after it was discovered that the Muslim organisations were being audited by the Review and Analysis Division - a secretive arm of the agency tasked to sniff out terrorism financing in the charity sector in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks in the US. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government has acknowledged Islamophobia in the auditing of charities, and has initiated an investigation into the Agency.

Madinah, SAUDI ARABIA – Plans to transform Islam's second holiest city into a modern Islamic and cultural destination were announced by Rua Al Madinah Holding, which said the project aims to strengthen the position of Al Madina Al Munawwarah as a prestigious religious destination with a modern architectural system derived from its ancient history. It said that the company hopes to raise the readiness of the central area of the Prophet's Mosque by developing a distinct urban environment with a modern infrastructure to host more visitors. The project aims to raise Madinah's hospitality capacity to accommodate 30 million visitors by the year 2030.

Dubai, UAE – After the Dubai municipality building became the world's largest 3D-printed structure in 2019, the city-state will now build the world's first 3D-printed mosque this year. The 2,000 square metre mosque will accommodate 600 people. Most houses and other structures made with 3D printing technology have solid, flat walls but the Dubai mosque will have tall, angled pillars connected by lattice-like panels that let daylight through.

Cairo, EGYPT - Twelve years after Syria was suspended from the influential Arab League, its membership has been reinstated. Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said that an Arab League foreign ministers meeting had agreed to this, and also formed a committee comprising Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Iraq to pursue a settlement to the Syrian crisis. Syrian President Bashir al-Assad has been clinging to power amid a huge crisis in his country between different factions. His government's brutal crackdown on pro-democracy protests led to a civil war.

Mumbai, INDIA – Amid a huge public outcry and decisions by many theatres not to screen the film. 'The Kerala Story' its director, Vipul Amrutlal Shah has denied that the film shows Muslims or Islam in a negative light but rather that it attacks terrorism. Shah also denied that the release of the film was timed to coincide with state elections in Karnataka, where some extremist politicians have used anti-Muslim sentiments in their campaigns.



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THE HAJE IT'S SPIRHUAL AND SOCIAL SCHIFTCANCE

PROF. MOULANA FAZLUR RAHMAN ANSARI

The Hajj (or pilgrimage to Mecca), is one of the pillars of Islam. Hundreds of thousands of Muslims, belonging to different nationalities and races and drawn from all walks of life, will throng from all parts of the world to worship together at Islam's central mosque and world's most ancient house of worship, the Ka'bah. This celebration and this spectacle, unique in the history of mankind, is repeated year after year and has been in existence for the past more than thirteen (fourteen) centuries. Every conscientious and pious Muslim and Muslimah cherishes the ambition of obtaining the blessings of the Hajj at least once in his or her lifetime. Everyone who has the means and also the requisite religious consciousness strives his utmost to achieve the crown of pilgrimage in spite of the over increasing hurdles and difficulties which beset the path of the pilgrim. In such countries where restrictions on travel for the Hajj and foreign exchange do not exist or exist in a tolerable form, there are persons who earn this virtue every year.

SPIRITUAL ELEVATION

The Hajj is primarily a devotional institution and, as such, forms the climax of a Muslims' demonstration of devotion to Allah in ceremonial observance.

Slogans, symbols and ceremonies have always formed part of human life on the religious as well as the non-religious plane, whatever the irreligious might think today. They are, however, always the means and not ends-in-themselves. Moreover, their worth and efficacy always depends on the ideas and concepts they sub-serve. They may form the projection of meaningless whims and mythical fancies, or they may be the representations of great and noble and true ideals.

While, therefore, symbols, ceremonies and slogans are to be found in Islam, as naturally they should have been, they are strictly rational and sublime in contrast to the irrational and even debasing ceremonies of other religions.

As a spiritual ceremonial observance, the Hajj should be understood in this light. Each one of the ceremonies performed by the pilgrim during the Hajj is rich in connation and carries within its bosom the attainment of a well-defined spiritual "idea". Thus, when the pilgrim goes round the Ka'bah in the performance of the prescribed number of tawaafs, bareheaded, covered in a seamless unsewn garb, and, like a mad lover, absorbed in the contemplation of his beloved - of his Creator he demonstrates his advance from the common level of human life to a higher state of spiritual glory wherein he affirms his relation to Allah. Similar is the case with other ceremonies. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (Allah bless him, his family and companions, and give them peace) has emphasized the immense importance of the Hajj in the task of spiritual reformation and transformation. But only those who perform it intelligently and conscientiously and with full understanding and the requisite accompanying spiritual endeavor can earn the spiritual benefits in full measure. The Hajj is a milestone in the Muslim spiritual life and should be treated as such.

AFFIRMATION OF HUMAN EQUALITY AND BROTHERHOOD

Islam is not a "personal religion" like some salvation-faiths. It is the religion of society. Its function is to reform, transform and build up not only the individual but the entire social whole. In fact, Islam is the religion of society to an extent that even its purely devotional institutions have definite social implications and functions. Take, for instance, the case of prayer which is perhaps the most "personal" and "private" of all religious institutions. In Islam, prayer has its social function as emphatic as the spiritual or devotional. The mosque is the only place in the world where the ideal of human brotherhood is truly and correctly and practically realized, where all distinctions of race and rank and colour and caste are obliterated. And in that rehearsal of the affirmation of human brotherhood, a Muslim has to participate obligatorily five times every day.

Islam does not, however, confine its struggle for the practical establishment of human brotherhood to that. From the local daily congregations to the more comprehensive Friday congregation, and from the city-congregation to the world-congregation at Mecca on the occasion of the Hajj, it progressively enlarges the scope and function of that rehearsal and that affirmation, until it achieves for the Muslim society what it has been impossible for other societies to achieve, viz. perfect human equality and brotherhood. "The ideal of a League of Human Races", says Islam's hostile critic, Professor Snouck Hungronje, "has indeed been approached by Islam more nearly than any other religion; for the League of Nations founded on the basis of Muhammad's religion takes the principle of the equality of all human races so seriously as to put other communities to shame."

May Allah enable the Muslims to raise this torch of human brotherhood higher and higher as time passes by! Ameen!



HAJ-E-TAMATTU... At a Glance

YOUM-UT-TARWIYAH

A Kausar

YOUM-UL-ARAFAH

THE Y

8th Zil Haj First Day

- 1.) Make Ghusal
- 2.) Wear the Ihraam
- 3.) Perform two rakaats Sunnat-ul-Ihraam
- 4.) Start reciting the Talbiyah
- 5.) At Mina perform 5 salaahs (Zohr, Asr, Maghrib, Esha and Fajr)

9th Zil Haj Second Day

- 1.) After sunrise leave for Arafat
- 2.) Wuqoof after Zawaal
- 3.) Zohr and Asr performed jointly.
- 4.) After sunset leave Arafat without performing Maghrib
- 5.) Proceed to Muzdalifah
- 6.) At Muzdalifah perform Maghrib and Esha together with one Azaan
- 7.) Spend the night at Muzdalifah
- 8.) Collect pebbles.

YOUM-UN-NAHR

10th Zil Haj Third Day

- 1.) After Fajr leave Mina
- 2.) Pelt big shaytaan preferably before Zawaal (Stop Talbiyah)
- 3.) Make Qurbani (Damm-e-Shukr)
- 4.) Trim or shave off the hair
- 5.) Wear ordinary clothing
- 6.) Proceed to Makkah for
- Tawaaf-e-Ziyaarah and Saee.
- 7.) Return to Mina (Spend the night here)

11th Zil Haj Fourth Day

- Pelt all three Jamaraats

 (7 pebbles each) any time after Zawaal till Maghrib.
 Starting with the small, then the middle and lastly the big one.
- 2.) Remain in Mina

A Yausar

12th Zil Haj Fifth Day

- Same procedure as the fourth day, pelt all three Jamaraats (7 pebbles each) any time after Zawaal till Maghrib. Starting with the small, then the middle and lastly the big one.
- 2.) Leave for Makkah before sunset, if not remain in Mina till the 13th and pelt all 3 jamaraats again.

لَبَّيْكَ ٱللَّهُمَّ لَبَّيْكَ لَبَّيْكَ لَاشَرِيْكَ لَكَ لَبَّيْكَ إِنَّ الْحُمْ لَوَ البِّعْبَةَ لَكَ وَالْمُلْكَ لَا شَرِيْكَ لَكَ

Talbiyah

Labbayk Allahumma Labbayk Labbayk La Sharikalaka Labbayk Innal Hamda Wan Nimata Laka Wal Mulk Laa Sharika Lak.

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On Tuesday the 9th of May, former prime-minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan was arrested by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in the Al-Qadir Trust case while Nab had declared PM Shehbaz and his family innocent in the money laundering cases against them. An 8-day remand was granted by the Accountability court and Imran Khan was further indicated in the Toshkhana case.

NAB had launched an investigation against Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi and others for the alleged gain of hundreds of canals of land in the name of Al Qadir University Trust, which reportedly caused a loss of 50 billion Rupees equivalent to 190 million pounds to the national treasury. A report sent by Britain's National Crime Agency (NCA) to the government. Former PM Imran Khan had registered for the Al-Qadir University Project Trust on December 26, 2019.

The PTI chief was taken into custody by the Rangers personnel, who were acting on behalf of the National Accountability Bureau's warrant, from the premises of the Islamabad High Court where the former premier had gone to seek bail in multiple cases registered against him. According to the NAB notice, Imran Khan's warrants were issued on May the 1st by NAB chairman Lt Gen retd Nazir Ahmad Butt. Fawad Chaudhry alleged that Imran Khan had been abducted from court while a number of lawyers and the general public had been tortured. Whereby, the Islamabad bar announced a judicial boycott after torture over the lawyers. However, the Islamabad police rejected PTI's allegations, that people were tortured. Thereafter, Section 144 had been imposed in Islamabad, Punjab and Sindh, whereby, Punjab and the KP government approved the deployment of the Pakistan Army.

Islamabad High Court Chief Justice Aamer Farooq took notice of Imran Khan's arrest from the premises of the high court and summoned IG Islamabad, the secretary interior and the additional attorney general while directing the government to inform the court immediately as to who was behind the arrest and inquired as to what case had Imran Khan been arrested in. Similarly, Latif Khosa termed Imran Khan arrests as illegal.

The Interior Minister, Rana Sanaullah stated that Imran Khan had failed to appear before the court despite being issued several notices to him in the inquiry.

The moment the news went out, Protests erupted in several cities where hundreds of PTI workers took to the streets in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Quetta, Multan and various other cities to record their protest and show their support while the Police began arresting several PTI workers in Islamabad who had blocked the Kashmir and the Karakoram highway. Together with that the rupee hit its all-time low against the US Dollar amid this political unrests.

In Peshawar the building of Radio Pakistan was set on fire. LRH received four bodies while 27 were injured. PTI protestors were set to have set ambulances and other vehicles on fire and accused of having caused all the havoc and damage, while the PTI party denied these allegations by saying that, on the contrary, they called for peaceful protests. "Marriyum Aurangzeb" stated that the PTI leadership had actually encouraged their workers towards vandalism while the CM of Bulichistan demanded for a ban on PTI.

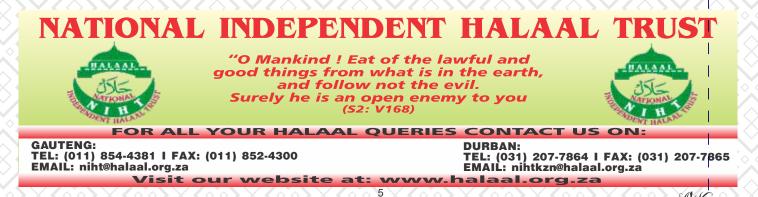
Facebook, YouTube and twitter were blocked all across Pakistan just moments after Imran khan was arrested. PTI leader Asad Umar was arrested from the premises of the Islamabad High Court, Fawad Chaudry from outside the Supreme Court, Iboth detained for 15 days. Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Former MNA Aliya Hamza were arrested in Islamabad. The Police arrested around 65 PTI workers in Quetta, the Karachi police arrested Ali Zaidi, 350 individuals and other PTI leaders and "PTI"s Omer Sarfraz Cheema was arrested from Lahore.

Without losing any time, Imran Khan challenged his arrest in the Supreme Court.

On Thursday the 11th of May the Supreme Court of Pakistan termed Imran Khan's arrest as illegal minutes after the PTI chief reached the Supreme Court where a three-member bench comprising of Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Athar Minallah along with the CJP who ordered the authorities to produce him before the court. While hearing the former prime minister's plea against his arrest in the Al-Qadir Trust case, they termed Imran Khan's arrest by the Rangers from inside the courtroom as illegal and ordered his immediate release. "Your arrest was invalid, so the whole process needs to be backtracked," said Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial.

The apex court ordered Imran Khan to stay at the Police Lines Guest House but not as a prisoner while directing the Islamabad police chief to ensure the former PM's security. Imran Khan was directed to appear in the Islamabad High Court on Friday the 12^{th} of May.

On Friday the 12th of May, while granting Imran Khan with protective Bail the Islamabad High Court had barred authorities from arresting the PTI Chairman in all cases against him, even those that are undisclosed or registered across the country until Monday May the 15th.



DE-DOLLARIZATION

by: Faizul Khamker

Since the start of the Russian/Ukraine conflict the discussion around the idea of dedollarization has gained momentum. The start of this conflict taking place between Russia and Ukraine also officially started an economic war between The United States and her allies in Europe on the one hand and Russia on the other in the form of sanctions. This economic war which was also waged against a host of countries that the west wished to weaken and then gain control over them. In recent years China was and is perceived as a threat to the United States control over the global economic power. Not unsurprising economic sanctions had been placed on them. Both Russia and China, unlike the other countries which had economic sanctions placed on them, are major players on the global market and having strong economies and are capable militarily not only has the capability to withstand the onslaught but are able to counter this economic war. In order to counter the threat posed by the economic war declared on them they started the move away from the dollar as the international currency. This created the debate on the dedollarization.

As part of their strategy to move away from the dollar they took steps to peg their currencies with gold and started to build up their gold reserves. Furthermore, the BRICS infrastructure they intend to start their own bank through which they will trade as well as providing loans. This then threatens the monopoly of the dollar and threatens the power that the IMF and the World Bank leverages. There has reportedly been strong support for these moves from those that are termed third world countries. It has also been reported that petrol, which was identified as the predominant commodity which is being traded globally, to a certain extent is now being targeted to be traded in different currencies. Gas supplied by Russia is currently a hybrid form of partially being traded in dollars and in the rouble.

This strategy of opposing and reducing the dependency of the dollar on the global economic market will undoubtedly have a strong negative effect on America and would destroy the dominance of the American economy and with it the leverage to subjugate countries into following their dictates. It is well known that when the powerful find themselves in a position where their power is threatened, they will go to great lengths to preserve their power. This in turn would end up in having an extremely

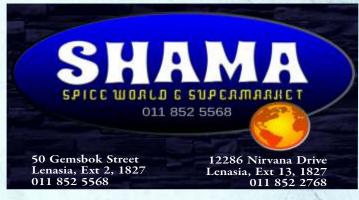


hostile global environment. We are already witnessing the military strategy of the Americans in the Pacific and the rising tensions in that region.

This would not bode well for the global masses. The question which arises is: Will the process of dedollarization succeed? The answer is not likely and most definitely not in the near future. Firstly, a great deal of negotiation must be entered into to bring about an equitable system. Secondly many supporters of the dedollarization program are deeply indebted by way of loans which hangs as a sword over their heads. Thirdly there will still be supporters of having the dollar as the international currencies. What may happen is that there will be two international currencies and this in turn will have its dangers to global peace and security as the backers of both the currencies will battle in out for dominance. What is clear is that the masses will end up suffering enormously irrespective of the outcome of the dedollarization strategy. Despite the fragmentation which could give more independence to the small currencies who could then benefit from these competing currencies.

The benefits of a positive outcome of this process is that there would be less volatility in the currency market as most of the currencies will have a concrete back up of real assets such as gold. The second positive is that the dominance of the Americans will be challenged creating a more even field for global trading.

We should be prepared for turbulent times and some commentators have encouraged the placing of greater reliance on fiat money rather than the emerging digital currencies.







By: Firoz Osman

Khader Adnan died after 86 days of refusing food in protest of his administrative detention by Apartheid Israel. The news prompted outpourings of anger and grief among Palestinians who saw him as an icon of steadfast resistance to Israeli oppression.

Adnan is the first Palestinian to die during a hunger strike in almost 40 years. His death brings to 237 the number of Palestinian prisoners who have died in Israeli custody since 1967.

Hailing from the occupied West Bank village of Arraba near Jenin, the 44 year old Adnan spent some eight years in Israeli detention, mostly without charge or trial.

A baker by profession whose job was to feed others, he refused any sustenance except water and salt in pursuit of a greater cause.

Over the years, he gained his freedom or limits on his detention by undertaking several long hunger strikes.

They include 25 days in 2004, 66 days in 2011 and 2012, 55 days in 2015, 58 days in 2018 and 25 days in 2021. Those successive protests took a toll on his body, causing several long-term health problems.

One of the appalling tools that Apartheid Israel uses to maintain dominance and control over the Palestinian Arab population, besides military rule and the military court system, is administrative detention (equivalent of Apartheid SA's "detention without trial").

The Israeli Prison Authority holds 724 Palestinians under administrative detention, 11 of whom are Israeli citizens. None are Jewish.

There are currently about 7000 Palestinian political prisoners detained by Israel. Over 800,000 Palestinian men, women and children have been prosecuted in Israeli military courts since 1967.

The threat of administrative detention hangs over the heads of all Palestinians who are subject to instant and arbitrary detention without charge or trial at the whim of a military commander.

The procedure for challenging these decisions makes a mockery of Israeli justice, relying on "secret evidence" that neither the victim nor their attorney is allowed to see. This is a cruel decision that acts as a clear indictment against the court itself and its moral standing.

Hunger strikes is the only tool of resistance for Palestinian prisoners, who have used them for many years to obtain small, incremental improvements to the conditions of their incarceration and visitation rights, and to bring attention to the injustices experienced at the hands of their oppressors.

This struggle requires tremendous courage and perseverance

and totally undermines the security justifications that Israel typically uses to justify its oppression of Palestinians.

Prisoners in Israeli jails are held in high regard by Palestinians, as was demonstrated with the escape of six Palestinian prisoners from the maximum-security Israeli prison of Gilboa in 2021. It has been described as "a major security and intelligence failure" by the Israel's police apparatus.

To the Palestinians, it was a heroic feat of great proportions, exposing the vulnerability of the Zionist regime and belying their invincibility of the settler colonial entity.

Shaheed Adnan explained in an essay published in a book A Shared Struggle—Stories of Palestinian & Irish Republican Hunger Strikers-

"Being locked in a dark dungeon, where Israeli soldiers beat my chained body was deeply humiliating and oppressing," Adnan said. "Their punches and their weapons have left permanent scars on my body. Their barbarism itself stood before me, literally."

"Freedom beckoned me from the moment I was first imprisoned, it haunted me. My quest for liberty also drove me to bolster the morale of my friends and brothers."

By waging his hunger strikes, Adnan said he was determined "to teach the occupiers a lesson in dignity and defiance." The oppressors failed to break his spirit!

Adnan never lost sight of what motivated him: his devotion to his people, his land and his family.

"I demanded to go home, to my family, to my daughters, who had spent long periods of their childhoods without me since I was jailed."

Adnan began his final hunger strike after Israeli occupation authorities arrested him on 5 February and imposed an administrative detention order.

The Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council described Adnan's death as a "calculated and cold-blooded slow-killing."

Adnan's wife Randa Musa stated that his family would not open a traditional mourning tent to receive condolences, but would instead accept congratulations on his martyrdom.

"He is our pride and honor, even though we would have liked him to return to us victorious," Musa said.

Musa has long stood by her husband, campaigning for him, speaking to the media and celebrating with him and their children on the previous occasions when he did come home victorious.

International support is critically important to build solidarity for the Palestinian prisoners and ensure they are not isolated or alone in their struggle for liberation.

Al Kausar



7

Various uses for **PETROLEUM JELLY**

by: Hasina Begum Sayed

Smooth feet: Add some vaseline to your feet each night and cover with socks for smooth and healthy glowing skin.

Growing <u>eyelashes</u>: Add a small amount to your eyelashes with a cotton applicator each night and over time your eyelashes will appear longer and thicker.

Knees and elbows: If you've got ashy or dry knees and elbows, vaseline can help rescue your skin. In addition to hydration, vaseline can help give your skin a smooth and even toned appearance.

Dry lips: Exfoliate your lips and apply a small amount of vaseline daily to keep them hydrated and from refrying.

Exfoliant: Mix a cup of sugar or sea salt with essential oil to vaseline and you'll have a great exfoliant that moisturizes as well.

Removing cuticles: When you're giving yourself a manicure, try some vaseline to soften and remove the extra skin and cuticles around your nail bed.

Lip stain: melt som vaseline with cocoa and place in a mold or jar to let harden. You'll get a hydrating and colored lip stain with a pleasant taste.

Massage: Use vaseline for a relaxing, hydrating and smoothing massage.

Moisturizer: Let vaseline melt over a low heat or under a lamp, and smooth over skin that needs a little extra moisturizing help.

Makeup remover: Instead of harsh chemicals, try a thin layer of vaseline to remove stubborn makeup.

Hair removal: To calm irritation from shaving or waving,

vaseline should be applied in a thin layer over the treated skin.

aselin

Eyebrower setter: To keep your eyebrows thick and in place, try a small amount of vaseline.

Dandruff: Apply a small amount to massage to your scalp before shampooing. Vaseline will help eliminate skin shedding and itching.

Scars: To help diminish the appearance of scars after surgery or injury, apply vaseline daily as it helps regenerate skin cells.

Creamy lipstick: Try mixing your lipstick with a small amount of vaseline to create a creamy and moisturizing lip enhancer.

Poison or itch control: Apply a small amount to the area affected by poisonous plants or itchy insect bites to help ease the discomfort.

Hair dying: Add vaseline along your hair line before you dye your hair to avoid staining your skin.

Leather shine: To help your best leather shine, whether shoes or purses, massage in a small amount of vaseline.

Sticky bottles: Apply a small amount to the lip of your bottles that tend to stick to help you quickly remove the cap the next time.

Makeup stains: Did your foundation or eyeliner smear onto your clothes? No worries. Massage in a small amount of vaseline and simply rinse the stain away.

Eye shadow: Want to experiment with new shades? Make a creamy eyeliner by mixing in powdered eye shadow to help your eyes shine.



BE CAREFUL... WHAT YOU ASK FOR



A person from the Bani Isra'eel once approached Hazrat Moosa (ﷺ) and asked to be taught the language of animals. Hazrat Moosa (ﷺ) advised him to concentrate rather on human speech, but the man insisted, pleading, "Speak to Allah Ta'ala since you are His Converser, and ask Him to teach me the language of animals." Hazrat Moosa (ﷺ) told him that it is better that he does not understand the language of animals, as he went up to Mount Sinai. But Allah Ta'ala addressed him saying, "O Moosa, I have accepted the plea of that servant who wishes to learn the language of animals. Henceforth he will understand all their tongues.

However, he should be very careful." Hazrat Moosa (ﷺ) came back down from Mount Sinai, found the man and told him that his wish had been granted and reminded him that he must observe moderation. The following morning, as the man was on his way to the barn to start the day's work, he heard a conversation going on between his ox and his donkey. The ox was telling his troubles to his stable-mates. "Oh my brother donkey," he said, "Don't ask how I am! In winter they drive me to the village, in summer to the fields, in autumn they yoke me to the cart. They make me work year in and year out, though I am only half fed. I will soon be too old to be useful anymore and they will send me to the butcher to be slaughtered. Then they will use my hide to make shoes, my horns to make handles for knives and my flesh will become roast beef. Oh, those human beings! I cannot tell you what I have suffered at their hands!"

The donkey replied, "You must be crazy. Your own stupidity has brought all those troubles on your head. Why do you go everywhere you are driven? Pretend to be sick now and then and our master will give you a break. Why don't you give it a try? Next time he comes to put you in harness, you must refuse to budge but keep calm even if he beats you and kicks you. He will assume you are sick and will leave you in peace, so that you can lie here and chew the cud all day long." Overhearing this cosy conversation, the peasant said to himself, "I'll show the pair of them!

He then went into the stable and approached the ox in the usual way. He tried to make it get up but the beast followed his friend's advice and pretended to take no notice. In spite of a couple of blows and several kicks, he laid low and refused to budge. The peasant laughed up his sleeve as he said, "Oh dear, this animal seems to be sick! What am I going to do? His friend had better do his work today." He then led the donkey out to the fields, put him in harness and made him work without a break right through till evening. The poor donkey paid the price for being such a loudmouth and wiseacre. He regretted giving the ox such advice but it was to no avail. Evening came at last. The poor donkey came back to the stable exhausted, where he found his friend as he had left him that morning, contentedly chewing cud. Placing a bale of straw in front of each animal, the peasant went out and eavesdropped on their conversation through a hole in the door.

Looking angrily at the ox, the donkey said, "I've done my bit, my friend. Tomorrow morning you'd better be ready for work." The ox replied, "Oh no, I've just gotten comfortable and I fully intend to relax like this for a few days." Shaking his head, the donkey again offered advice, "I wouldn't think of playing this game again

if I were you. When the people in the field saw me being harnessed instead of you, they asked our master about you and he said, "Our ox is sick. If he is not better tomorrow I shall have him slaughtered. He is very lazy and I am not going to feed him for nothing." So you will find the butcher waiting for you if you pretend to be sick again tomorrow morning."

When the ox heard these words, he came to his senses. Preferring to work than die, he got up as soon as his master came into the stable the next morning, and willingly set off for the fields. As for the peasant, he was thinking to himself along the way, "How useful is it to know the language of animals. How valuable it has proved in these first two days alone. Who knows what else I shall learn and how I shall benefit from it." The next morning he woke as usual when the cock crowed, but this time he heard the following conversation between the crock and the dog.

"Congratulations," the bird was saying, "There is going to be a banquet for you." "What banquet?" asked the dog. "Our master's ox is going to die. They will skin it and leave the meaty bones for you. Could there be a bigger feast than that?"

As soon as the man heard this, he took his ox straight to the market and sold it, supposing that he had avoided a great loss. The next morning after that, he jumped out of bed when he heard the cock and the dog conversing again. The dog was reproaching the cock. "What about the banquet then? They went and sold the ox and you said it was going to die."

The cock now gave him a new story. "I told you there would be a banquet for you and you will certainly enjoy a feast. Our master did sell his ox, but today his slave will die and they will have to provide a funeral meal for friends and neighbours. The leftovers will make you a perfect banquet." On hearing this, the peasant took his slave to the market and sold him too. He said to himself, "Had I not understood the language of animals I would have suffered a serious loss." However, his peace and comfort were short-lived as he left all his work to listen to everything the animals were talking about.





A Kausar

Excellence or Laid-Back

by: Moulana Naasik Ahmad Mohamed (Burood)

Do we drag ourselves into work or appointments and end up often being late? Do we do things like cleaning at home or tasks at work just to get past the post, or do we try to do the best job possible, close to perfect? Do we study just to pass exams or do we try to understand the topic and work hard to be the best? Do we procrastinate?

How many of us complain about the state of our affairs but we did not study hard at school, did not work hard in our careers, do not do good jobs at work, and go through life just getting along without ambition or a vision for their life and work? Have we even planned projects for our excess wealth (if any) for good causes beyond tactical charity towards strategic plans and projects that help those in need and the revival of Islam? If one looks back in history to the Islamic Renaissance from, the 7th to 15th century, it is easy to see how influential Muslims once were. They were an example of 'Progress and Excellence'.

The human ego clouds the perceptions of reality and reduces our chances of progress. Many people are quite capable of helping others thus helping society, but unfortunately, they suffer from a 'Who Cares' attitude. However, true believers have learnt to evolve from egocentric to theocentric thinking.

Theocentric people (those that believe Allah Almighty is the central interest and ultimate concern) believe that humans should be considerate to all, from animals to plants to other humans themselves.

Theo-centricity maintains that human beings are merely here for a short time and should be looking after the world for future generations to come. The Sahaaba (Radiyallahu Anhum) were a generation of productivity, perfectionists, and self-reliance. They did jobs to a high-quality standard, worked hard to the best of their ability, studied hard, did not waste time, kept their promises and appointments, and were organised and systematic in their approach to life, because they had a vision and ambition for attaining the pleasure of Allah Almighty and Nabi (Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam). Because of this, Allah Almighty opened the world to them.

Ihsaan is a comprehensive concept. It includes doing things to your best ability, excellently, completely, nicely, high quality, and doing them correctly in the right way according to the best standards. A Muslim who practices Ihsaan throughout their life is a responsible person and a person who always does a high quality job promptly. They get satisfaction in ensuring that they do a good quality job in all that they do, being timely, not delayed, being reliable, right down to washing dishes, ironing, or a workout for her/himself, etc. Every Muslim is responsible to do something, such as chores, cooking, cleaning the house etc., in their homes. This not only talks to Muslim women but also includes Muslim men.

Excellence is required for all actions.

Allah Almighty has mentioned in the Holy Quraan: "Verily, Allah Almighty enjoins justice, and excellence and giving help to relatives, and He forbids immoral sins (obscenity), evil and rebellion. He advises you, so that you may take heed" (S 16: V 90). Nabi (Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam) has said: "Verily Allah Almighty has prescribed excellence in all things" (Muslim – 1955). If you look at the working culture of the Muslims, it is the opposite of Ihsaan (excellence), Itqaan (the work and duties performed and completed in the highest quality), and Ikhlaas (sincerity). Hazrat Ayesha (Radiyallahu Anha) mentions that Nabi (Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam) said: "Allah Almighty loves to see one's task done at the level of excellence" (Shu'bal Imaan – 5313).

It is important to realize that living our best lives and striving to do our best in Deen and Dunya – whatever our talents are, whatever we are capable of doing – is part of our faith. This is where Ihsaan (excellence), Itqaan (the work and duties performed and completed in the highest quality), and Ikhlaas (sincerity) becomes so important to implement. Let us look inward and strive to be better individually and as a collective. Dr. Perry Sexton, a medical practitioner, said 'Excellence is in the details. Give attention to the details in everything you do and excellence will come'. It is said that excellence is the gradual result of always striving to do better. We must always keep in our mind that excellence is doing everyday things extremely well.



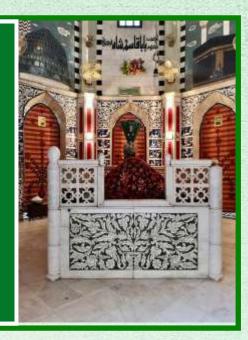




A Kausa



HADRAT MAKHDOOM BABA KASSIM KASSIM SHAH FARIDI (RA)



Hadrat Makhdoom Baba Kassim Shah Faridi al-Qadiri al-Chishti al-Fakhri al-Azhari ar-Rahmani an-Nadirshahi (ra) is a Sufi Shaykh attached to the Noble Qadiri and Chishti Spiritual Orders.

He was born on the 30th June 1915 in Varethi, a farming village near Surat in India.

He qualified as a Medical Doctor, and at the time of his graduation, he was the youngest Muslim doctor in India. He was initiated into the Chishti Order by Hadrat Shaykh Sayyid Abd ar-Rahman Shah (ra) of Ambetha (Baruch District-India) in March 1943. After the Wisaal of his Shaykh, Hazrat Baba Kassim Shah was honoured with Khilaafat and Ijazat in the Qadiri and Chishti Orders by the last Khalifa of His Shaikh, Hadrat Makhdoom Muhammad Shah Jhangharwi (ra) in 1949. He migrated to Pakistan shortly after the partition and settled in Hyderabad (Sindh).

Baba Saheb dedicated his life to the propagation of Islam in general and Tasawwuf in particular. He imparted Spiritual teaching and training since 1951 to all those who joined the Spiritual Order of the great Sufi Masters. His mureeds are found all over the world, the majority being in the Indo-Pak subcontinent, Europe and Africa. He was a humble man, small in stature but big at heart with a magnetic personality. His smile lit the fire of love in dead hearts, thus illuminating the soul. He gave of himself totally, unconditionally, lovingly, and passionately, and his generosity knew no bounds. He travelled extensively to give out his loving hands; ceaselessly, grasping, pulling and caressing some wayward souls. He conquered hearts through knowledge, virtuous deeds, morals, spirituality and Divine Love.

Baba Saheb or Kassim Bawa, as he was affectionately known, had been specially blessed by Hazrat Khwaja Gareeb Nawaaz (ra) and Hazrat Baba Farid Ganje Shakar (ra), and this enabled him to propagate the Chishti Path in a dynamic and vibrant manner without neglecting its original teachings.

He authored many books on Tasawwuf and Islamic teachings in English, Urdu and Gujerati. These books provide valuable spiritual guidelines for those travelling on the path of Tassawuf. He had also composed many Hamds, Na'at and Mangabat.

Baba Saheb upheld the Spiritual Torch of the Great Khawajagaan and sincere friends and disciples were drawn to Baba Saheb from every nook and corner like moths to a flame.

He taught that Love of Allah and His Messenger (saw) is the essence of Tasawwuf, and that Tasawwuf deals with the ways and means that are essential for acquiring the knowledge and love for Allah that would lead to His Nearness and Pleasure. He also emphasised the importance of good character and morality, and that the foundation of ethics in Tasawwuf is established by the Holy Qur'an and the practical conduct of life exemplified in the practice of the Beloved Messenger of Allah, Hadrat Muhammad Mustafa (ﷺ). By means of devotion to the Holy Prophet Muhammed (ﷺ) and practical submission to the law of the Qur'an, man can reach a stage where he may fulfill the role of the Vicegerent of Allah on earth. He believed that the most beloved of Allah was he who tried to do the most good to Allah's creation, and that Sufis try to gain Allah's Love and Pleasure by serving His creation.

He would advise his mureeds to remember Allah with every breath, for any breath taken without the dhikr of Allah was a dead breath, a wasted opportunity that could never be recovered. He would say that there is nothing more important for you than to seek Allah. Seek Him at every moment and in every place, and be steadfast and active in the search for Allah. Even when the Angel of Death comes to take your soul, don't stop searching for Allah. Let the Angel do his work, and you continue doing yours. Remain consistent in your search for Him. Don't ever despair and lose hope, because sometimes the journey of a hundred years can be accomplished in one moment. He would say "Remain as a servant and a slave of Allah Ta'aala, and serve Him with utmost sincerity. Do whatever you do solely for His Sake. We are never free for even one second from being the slaves of Allah. Be humble. Understand full well that arrogance, conceit, and selfcenteredness are the greatest veils because these are the deceptions and qualities of Shaytaan". Baba Saheb came to South Africa in 1985. He was well known as the Shaykh who revived the Tarigah (methodology) of Mehfile Sama, an important spiritual practice of the Mashaikhe-Chisht. Those who met Baba Saheb remembered him for his love of Sama. Those who sat in Sama with him, with pure hearts, could feel the moving of their hearts towards Divine Secrets, communion and ecstacy.

Indeed devotional approach to the Auliyah Allah attracts great benefit and blessings from Allah *****. Those who were fortunate to have met and spent time in the company of Hadrat Baba Kassim will surely treasure their experiences forever.

Hadrat Makhdoom Baba Kassim Shah Faridi (ra) was ushered into the realm of divine beauty on the morning of the 8th December 2005 (5th Dhul Qa'idah 1426) at the age of ninety. His Mazaar Sharif is located in Latifabad - Hyderabad Sindh - Pakistan. His Mazaar functions as an island of celestial bliss, a sanctuary of love and solace and a source of spiritual bounty to all. His 'Urs is celebrated annually in Pakistan, India, South Africa and the UK.

The 18 th Annual URS Shareef in South Africa will be held on the 27 th May 2023 at the Park Primary School Hall in Lenasia JHB.





The great Mystic, Mansur al Hallaj was martyred on 26 March, 922, partly because of the following saying that expressed the nature of his mystic union: ana'l –Haqq (meaning "I am Truth"). Mystic Mansur would go into trances often, intoxicated with Divine Love and during one of these trances, he would utter ana'l-Haqq, and also, "In my turban is wrapped nothing but God?" which was taken to mean that he was claiming to be God, as Al-Haqq is one of the Ninety Nine Names of Allah. In another statement, Hallaj would point to his cloak and say, "Maa Fil Jubbati Illa-Allah" meaning "There is nothing inside the cloak except God."

This utterance would lead him to a long trial, and subsequent imprisonment for eleven years in a Baghdad prison. In the end, he would be tortured and publicly crucified (in some accounts he was beheaded and his hands and feet were cut off) by the Abbasid rulers. Many accounts tell of Al-Hallaj's calm demeanor even while he was being torture and even he went to his execution dancing in his chains.

Here is a beautiful explanation of the statement "I am the Truth", (Anal Haqq), and the reality behind the utterance. It is quoted from spiritual-health website.

'Ana'l Haqq' is, in fact, entailed by, and an expression of, the central meaning of the first pillar of Islam in which one is required to bear witness that there is no reality but Divinity. To say there is 'no god but God' (La ilaha illaAllah), does not get to the heart of the matter, **for one must ask what is Divinity**, and when one addresses this question in essential, fundamental terms, the answer to that inquiry is that God is the basis, and cause, of all manifested possibilities. In short, **there is no reality but Divinity**, and any statement to the contrary is in error.

All of Creation is nothing but a multiplicity of manifested permutations and combinations of Divine Names and Attributes brought together through Divine Purpose. There is no aspect of Creation whose nature, qualities, character, form, potential, possibilities, capacity, behavior, and duration are not a function of the manner in which Divinity arranges Names and Attributes in order to give expression to manifestation of one kind, rather than another.

Consequently, if the 'I' of "Ana'l Haq" - that is, 'I am the Truth', is a realized reference to the Divine nature of manifestation - human or otherwise, and if 'Haq', or Truth, is one of the Names of Divinity - which it is - then, in reality, the statement in question is actually an alternative way of stating the very same truth which is contained in the Shahadah - the declaration that there is no reality but Divinity. Although the public declaration of 'Ana'l Haq' constitutes a violation of Shari'ah, nonetheless, the statement is only heretical or untruthful when it is said through a human being who is not in a realized spiritual condition of tawhid."

Indian Vedantic Philosophy very much stress this importance of self realization, because without selfrealization of the truth, everything else is just theory. When Einstein was asked, "Do you believe in God", he replied, "No i do NOT believe in God." pausing he said, "I know there IS a God." To me this is a beautiful expression of realization within. compared to which, just believing without realization sounds very illusory.

Here is another very important saying of Hallaj which reflects the sincerity of his special heart, **Allah**, **Most High**, **is the very One Who Himself affirms His Unity by the tongue of whomsoever of His creatures He wishes. If He affirms His Unity in my tongue it is He Who does so, and it is His Affair.**

Otherwise, my brother, I myself have nothing to do with affirming Allah's Unity.

SOURCE LINK: http://www.techofheart.co/2006/08/i-am-truth-what-did-mansur-really.html



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