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THE SPIRIT OF HAJ CAN'T CHANGE

It is Haj season again.

Honoured by mankind who testify with reverence and awe "There is no god besides Allah, Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah," the largest gathering on earth is about to unfold.

Yes the times are unlike the times when the greatest Messenger of Allah, Muhammad Mustafa (ﷺ) declared the pilgrimage as a Pillar of Islam, and whose coming fulfilled the invocation of his ancestors, the messengers of earliest times Ibraheem and Ismaeel (عليه السلام).

Technology and modern convenience are the standout necessities of this age, and not even the Haj could escape these intrusions. The sky is still unchanged, but down below, the original Arabian landscape is now polluted with skyscrapers, malls, and highways of American and European standard.

Not easy then for the pilgrim to tread the same footpath trodden upon by the noble ones of better times without all the distractions that offset the real spirit of the Haj.

It is this that should be a target. To capture the spirit of the Haj. As long as the location is identifiable, and the timing matches, then the labbayk-charged voices from the commonly ihraam-clad masses will always convey the spirit of Haj. The assembling on the main day of the Haj at Arafat, one of the surviving unaltered landmarks, is a day when sinners experience redemption. A day when rank and file come as close as one dares in proximity with the Lord one has spent a lifetime worshipping.

Of course, seeing the Kaaba for the first time! That's the experience that defines the Haj. It is hard to be unmoved by that first vision. Or seeing the Black Stone, or the enshrined footprints at Maqaam Ibraheem, the Zam-Zam well, the hills of Mt. Safa and Mt. Marwa, not forgetting the anger and hatred when pelting the devil.

This small outline of Haj is more than sufficient to understand the spiritual value of the pilgrimage, but it would be excellent achieving the even deeper spiritual perceptions. This can never happen if the pilgrim is not going to adjust his behaviour and refrain from bad intentions and deeds during the duration of the pilgrimage. The Haj is to and for Allah and those shrines He Himself is proud of. The ziyaarah is based around these places. (And not the shopping centres!)

"Innas-safaa wal marwata min sha'aa'Irillaahi faman hajjal baita 'awi`tamara falaa junaaha 'alaihi an yattawwafa bihimaa wa man tatawwa'a khairan fa'Innallaaha shaakirun 'aleem," (Qur'an).

Surely the Safa and the Marwa are among the Signs from Allah; so whoever makes a pilgrimage to the House or pays a visit (to it), there is no blame on him if he goes round them both; and whoever does any good by his own choice, then surely Allah is Appreciative, all-Knowing.

May Allah bless and accept every Haj and bless the world with peace and goodwill during the holy days!

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HAZRAT SHEIKH JAFFAR ABUBAKAR SHIBLI ﷺ

BIRTH: He was born in Samarra in the year 247 Hijri

NAME: His name was Jaafar, and he was also known as Abu Bakr. The name Jaafar bin Yunus is engraved on his blessed Shrine. His title was Mujaddid. He was known as Shibli, because he came from a place called Shibla.

SHAYKH-E-TARIQAT: He is the mureed and Khalifa of Sayyid al-Taaifa Hadrat Junaid al-Baghdadi ؒ.

He was the Muqallid of Hadrat Imam Maalik ؒ and he knew the entire Muwatta of Imam Maalik ؒ by heart. He spent most of his time in the Ibaadat of Almighty ALLAH. He visited all the great Masha'ikh of his era, and spent time with all of them. He gained a very exalted position in spiritualism. His spiritual position had become so great, that the ordinary mind could not understand him. It is stated that for a very long time, he lived under a tree. He would walk around the tree, making the zikr of "Hoo - Hoo" People who saw him, asked him concerning his condition. He said, "There is a dove on this tree which is saying "Koo - Koo" I am thus following its pattern and making the Zikr of Hoo Hoo. Those who saw this noticed that the dove would not remain silent until he stopped his zikr. For as long as he was in Zikr, the dove also went on cooing.

Hadrat Abu Bakr bin Mujahid ؒ was a very great saint and a great Imam of Hadith and Fiqh. Many Ulama and Masha'ikh sat in his gatherings to listen to the knowledge he imparted. Once Hadrat Abu Bakr Shibli went to one of his gatherings. On seeing Hadrat Abu Bakr Shibli, he immediately stood up in respect. He embraced him with great love, and then kissed his forehead. A man from those present at the gathering stood up and said, "Sayyidi! This man is insane, why do you treat him with such respect?" Hadrat Abu Bakr ibn Mujahid said, "O People! I have done with him as I saw the Prophet ﷺ do with him." He then narrated a dream by saying, "I dreamt that it was the most exalted gathering of the Prophet

ﷺ. Then, when Hadrat Abu Bakr Shibli Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anho entered the gathering, the Prophet ﷺ stood up, and kissed his forehead. I said, Ya Rasoolallah ﷺ, why such a great amount of love and affection for Shibli? And the Prophet ﷺ said, 'After Namaaz, he reads from Laqa Jaa Akum Rasoolun until Azeem, and he then says Sallallahu Alaika Ya Rasoolallah three times.'" [Raah-e-Aqidat].

Once Hadrat Abu Bakr Shibli ؒ had taken very ill. Ali bin Esa informed the Khalifa of this, and the Khalifa sent a Christian doctor to treat Hadrat Abu Bakr Shibli ؒ. This doctor was the royal specialist physician. He treated Hadrat Abu Bakr Shibli ؒ, but he could not help in making him feel better. The doctor once said to Hadrat, "If I felt that your cure was in a piece of my flesh, then I would not even mind cutting of a piece of flesh." Hadrat Abu Bakr Shibli ؒ said, "My medicine is in something else." The Doctor said, "In what is it?" Hadrat said, "In this, that you leave kufr and accept Islam." The doctor immediately read the kalima and accepted Islam. When the Khalifa heard of what had happened, he began to weep. He said, "I thought that I had sent a doctor towards one who was ill. Little did I realize that I had sent one who was ill towards a doctor."

After his wisaal, a pious man saw him in his dream, and asked, "Sayyidi! What transpired with the Angels of the grave?" He said, "When the angels came to me, and asked about my Lord, I said, 'It is He, who created Adam ؑ and commanded the Angels to prostrate before him. All of them prostrated but Iblees, who turned his face away from the command of ALLAH and showed pride. At that time, I was in the spine of Hadrat Adam ؑ.'" The Angels said, "He has answered on behalf of all the children of Adam ؑ." [Shajrat al-Kaamileen, Page 203]

MAZAR SHARIF: His Mazaar Shareef is in Saamarrāh, which is in Baghdad Shareef (Iraq)

Shariah is this, that you should follow it, Tariqah is this, that you should desire and Haqeeqah is this that you should see.

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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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WHY FOOTBALL STAR ACCEPTED ISLAM

Recent reports suggest that Islam is growing in popularity amongst world celebrities not excluding academics, entertainment and sports personalities. Leading the race seems to be soccer, with the report of Barcelona's Adriano, watched on Youtube reciting shahaadah, while others practicing the religion of Islam include Bayern Munich star Frank Ribery and ex-Chelsea Nicholas Anelka. Legends Thierry Henry and Cristiano Ronaldo are known to have expressed more than ordinary interest, with the Real Madrid superstar also being a vocal pro-Palestine supporter. Togolese international, former Arsenal goal-grabber Emmanuel Adebayor gave his reasons for accepting Islam in place of Christianity.

Famous footballer, Emmanuel Adebayor (Arsenal, Manchester City, Real Madrid, Tottenham) has recently left his Christian faith and converted to Islam.

In his expected usual self, he released the reasons why he converted to Islam.

" I GOT 13 VALID REASONS WHY AND HOW MUSLIMS ARE LIKE JESUS (Peace be upon him) AND TRUER FOLLOWERS OF JESUS THAN MOST CHRISTIANS BELIEVE:

1. Jesus taught that there is only One God and Only God should be worshipped as taught in Deut 6:4, Mark 12:29. Muslims also believe this as taught in the Qur'an verse 4:171.

2. Jesus didn't eat pork as taught in Leviticus 11:7 , and neither do Muslims as taught in the Qur'an verse 6:145.

3. Jesus greeted with the words "as salaamu alaikum" (Peace be with you) in John 20:21. Muslims also greet each other this way.

4. Jesus always said "God Willing" (in sha allah), Muslims say this too before doing anything as taught in the Qur'an verses 18:23-24.

5. Jesus washed his face, hands, and feet before praying. The Muslims do the same.

6. Jesus and other prophets of the Bible prayed with their head to the ground (see Matthew 26:39). Muslims do too as taught in the Qur'an verse 3:43.

7. Jesus had a beard and wore a long robe and Muslim men to do the same.

8. Jesus followed the law and believed in all the prophets, (see Matthew 5:17). Muslims do too as taught in the Qur'an verses 3:84, and 2:285.

9. Jesus' mother Mary dressed modestly by fully covering her body and wearing a headscarf (hijab) as found in 1 Timothy 2:9, Genesis 24:64-65, and Corinthians 11:6.

Muslim women modestly dress the same as taught in the Qur'an verse 33:59.

10. Jesus and other prophets of the Bible fasted up to 40 days (see Exodus 34:28, Daniel 10:2-6. 1 Kings 19:8, and Matthew 4:1-Muslims do so also during the month of Ramadan. Muslims are required to fast the full obligatory 30 days (see Qur'an 2:183), and others take it a step further by fasting an additional 6 days to increase their rewards.

11. Jesus taught to say "Peace to this house" when entering it (see Luke 10:5), and to also greet the people in the house with "peace be unto you". Muslims do exactly what Jesus did and taught. When we enter our homes and the homes of others we say In the name of God and also greet with "as salaamu alaikum" (peace be upon you) as taught in the Qur'an verse 24:61.

12. Jesus was circumcised. Circumcision is 1 of the 5 fitrah in Islam, so Muslim men are required to be circumcised. According to the Bible in Luke 2:21, Jesus was eight days old when he was circumcised. In the Torah, Allah/God stated to the Prophet Abraham (pbuh) that it is an "Everlasting covenant" (see Genesis 17:13). In the Qur'an verse 16:123 Muslims are required to follow the religion of Abraham. The Prophet Muhammad said, "The Prophet Abraham circumcised himself when he was eighty years old."

13. Jesus spoke Aramaic and called God "Ellah", which is pronounced the same as "Allah". Aramaic is an ancient, Biblical language. It is one of the Semitic languages that also include Hebrew, Arabic, Ethiopic and the ancient Assyrian and Babylonian language of Akkadian.

The Aramaic "Ellah" and the Arabic "Allah" are the same.

The Aramaic "Ellah" is derived from the Arabic "Allah", and it means "GOD". "Allah" in Arabic also means "GOD", the Supreme GOD Almighty. You can easily see the similarity in their pronunciation so this concludes that the God of Jesus is also the God of the Muslims, of all mankind, and all that exist.

Now tell me who is the real follower of Jesus?"

E. Adebayo

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THE HAJJ: IT'S SPIRITUAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Prof. Maulana Muhammad Fazlur Rahman Ansari Al Qaderi

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 connotation 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!

“Shell-Shocked: On The Ground Under Israel's Gaza Assault”

Author: Mohammed Omer - Review By Iqbal Jassat Media Review Network

A year after Israel's bloody massacres in Gaza, it may appear that much of the world has forgotten about the immense suffering caused by Operation Protective Edge. However, not for Palestinian journalist Mohammed Omer. He, alongside 2 million Gaza refugees faced fifty-one days of hell, and the experience chronicled by him has just been published by OR Books.

Timely and filled with harrowing accounts of life on the ground during Israel's brutal carnage in the tiny besieged coastal enclave, Omer's eyewitness dispatches make a profound contribution to understanding Gaza's tragic plight.

300 pages of Shell-Shocked, bears testimony of Omer's extraordinary professionalism and amazing tenacity to capture in words the horror unleashed by the Occupying power Israel.

It must be noted that apart from his role as a journalist, Omer is also a resident of Gaza who with his wife and three-month-old son, had to endure the terror of the Zionist regime's colossal ground, air and naval assault.

In his own words Omer explains, “...I am a resident of Gaza and suffer through daily local attacks, as well as the major assaults every few years. This has been my experience of life, first as a child, then as a young man, and now as a father and husband: I was born a few years prior to the first intifada. Today four generations have lived under this occupation. The majority of us in Gaza have known nothing else.”

Shell-Shocked is a grim reminder that the July 2014 assault was the third, and to date the worst waged by Israel against Gaza since 2008. Its compendium of reports reminds us too that the latest was an outrageous act of premeditated aggression which the rightwing Netanyahu regime gave the Orwellian name “Operation Protective Edge.”

Nearly 2,200 Palestinians were killed; about a quarter of them were children, many of whom were deliberately and viciously targeted. One hundred and forty-two families lost three or more members. About 11,000 were injured, maimed or permanently disfigured. 18,000 housing units were destroyed or severely damaged, displacing nearly 20,000 families comprising of about 108,000 men, women and children. 17,000 hectares of crops flattened and the agricultural infrastructure that sustained life almost entirely decimated.

Omer's analytical reports illuminate how relentless and utterly merciless the Israeli war machinery has been.

For instance in one of the reports titled “Our bodies are spent, but our spirit endures”, the author captures the human drama as: “The days flow from one into the next, punctuated by breaking stories, covering one massacre to the next. Each day another home is bombed. Homes with children sleeping inside.”

Omer laments the fact that very few in the mainstream media ever talk about the right of the people of Gaza to defend themselves or even just to exist.

After all Palestinians don't possess an air force, navy, army and nuclear weapons. Palestinians don't set up checkpoints, don't bulldoze Israeli homes, don't build walls around their cities, don't uproot their crops and don't withhold their taxes.

Shell-Shocked not only contains reports of the terror visited upon Omer's people; the tales reported reveal the extent of dehumanising that's occurred allowing most of Israel's allies to look away from the immense suffering Gaza has had to endure.

The book is a remarkable testimony of the professionalism and serious commitment to accuracy of Mohammed Omer. As John Pilger observes, “This great reporter and his family were under fire day after day.” Despite bombs raining around him, “...he produced eyewitness dispatches of such clarity and brilliance that, almost single-handed, he reclaimed the honour of real journalism.”

Jon Snow of Channel 4 fame, describes Omer's testimony as journalism of the highest order. In his praise, Rashid Khalidi says: “Written with painful immediacy, these are more than dispatches from a war zone: they convey the human reality of people who manage to survive and endure in conditions that have grown grimmer and more inhumane over the years.”

Sara Roy correctly affirms Omer as a professional journalist determined to create a precise record of events occurring in front of him. And having read the heart wrenching accounts of fifty-one terror filled days and nights, I agree with Roy's amazement about how such monstrosities can be visited on a trapped and helpless population.

Omer's profound contribution will ensure that Israel's war crimes in Gaza will not ever be allowed to be swept under the carpet. Indeed the testimony of survivors as captured by the author will certainly have a role in determining justice for Gaza and its besieged people.

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Guantanamo Bay vs. Internment Camps

Written by: Dr Aayesha J Soni - Vice Chairperson, Media Review Network

"Guantanamo is the same as the internment camps for Japanese-Americans during the Second World War in the way it deprives innocent people of their freedom. In America, we don't learn from our history". Described as such by a former guard, Guantanamo Bay prison which was established in January 2002 by the United States government has become notorious for its abuses and denial of due process. Since 2002, 779 men, aged from 13 to 105, have been detained there outside any legal framework. Their treatment, in violation of international law, has included gruesome physical, mental and sexual torture and through the emergence of ground-breaking discoveries, such as the 6000 page Senate Intelligence Committee Report on CIA Torture, we have been enlightened to the exact extent of one of the greatest disgraces of our time.

Of the 116 persons currently remaining at Guantanamo Bay, 52 are cleared for release. Those cleared for release are completely innocent, but have been labeled as 'terrorists'. There have been numerous documented narratives where innocent individuals, based solely on their Islamic religion, were robbed of all freedoms the US claims to champion. Being released is only the beginning of their journeys, and reintegrating into a society that has played a helping hand in the complete disruption of their lives will be no easy feat. And this is where South Africa is afforded the opportunity to be the shining light of democracy and freedom.

South Africa will be able to take the diplomatic steps to resettle detainees, which falls within the South African government's responsibilities under international law, and under its own Refugee Act of 1998. CAGE Africa, a branch of CAGE in the UK (an organisation that advocates for the rights of those adversely affected by the War on Terror policies), has just submitted a request to the South African government, the Department of International Relations and Co-operation, and the Department of Home Affairs, to resettle between 1 and 11 of the 52

Guantanamo Bay detainees. I implore the relevant authorities to grab this opportunity to display why South Africa's constitution is considered one of the most progressive in the world! We have the platform to afford men who have been the unjust victims of abject cruelty the chance to attempt to reclaim their lives and live as peaceful citizens in a democracy- the South Africa that I am proud to declare my religious freedom in would not lose such a golden prospect.

The War on Terror is a monster that has allowed to be bred out of the womb of fear and has shown no distinction between civilians and combatants. We, as South Africans, now have the global podium to showcase our regard for human rights, and I have full confidence that our government will not fail these innocent men and their families. We have seen our country's icon of human rights preservation Archbishop Desmond Tutu describe Guantanamo Bay as a "horrendous subversion of law" and join the chorus of well-respected voices calling for its termination; it is time we heed the call of the Archbishop and facilitate an attempt at redemption of a damning human rights violation. It is time to resettle former Guantanamo detainees in South Africa.

READERS OPINION

For The Esaale Sawaab of:

My Peer-o-Murshid

Al Haj Goolam Mustapha R.A.

Mazaar Shareef Zeerust

& Late Hajee Cassim Sonvadi

From Hajee Goolam Saber
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BY MOULANA
SHAH FAISAL
KHAN SAHEB

EXCELLENCE OF HAJ

Q1) Tell us about the excellence of Haj.
A1) Haj is the fifth pillar of Islam. It is obligatory upon every Muslim (male and female) who has the means to perform Haj at least once in their lifetime; he should go to Makkatul Mukarrama and Madinatul Munawwara and come back as a king not beggar, he should leave enough provision for his family members to spend in his absence, he should baaligh- thus Haj is not obligatory on a poor person and a minor (boys under the age of 15 and girls under the age of 12).

If someone does not believe in Haj being a Fard act, he will be out of the fold of Islam. There is a Surah in the Holy Quraan regarding this great Islamic pillar, known as Suratul Haj.

The season of Haj commences immediately after the termination of the glorious month of Ramadhaan, i.e. the months of Shawaal, Zil Qadh and the first ten days of Zil Haj are known as the season of Haj.

The season of reawakening
In the Holy Quraan, it is stated in Surah Haj, "And proclaim the pilgrimage among the people they will come to you on foot and mounted on every kind of camel lean on account of journeys through deep and distant highways and that they may witness my benefits (provided) for them and celebrate the name of Allah through the days appointed over cattle which he has provided for them (sacrifice), then you should eat thereof and feed the distressed ones in want, let them complete the rights prescribed for them, perform their vows and gain circumambulate the Ancient House." [Surah Haj Verse 27-29].

In accordance with the command of Allah, the call for Haj first given by the Prophet Ebrahim ؑ is proclaimed every year and has been for the last four thousand years. Muslims throughout the world using different modes of transport assemble on the plains of Arafat reading "Labbaik", here I am Oh Allah, Here I am, You have no partner, here I am, verily all praise and dominion is Your

and You have no partner.

Allah has made us one Ummah so we can remain united in his worship and obedience and thus receive his divine blessings and mercy. Allah has mentioned in Surah Ambiya, "Verily this Ummah of yours is one single Ummah and I am Your Lord, and Cherisher, therefore serve Me and no other." [Surah Ambiya verse 92]

Unity in Diversity

One unique aspect of Haj is that it manifests the unity of the Ummah and all of humankind as one family and tribe. It eliminates all differences of colour, race, language, nationality, social status and economic disparity. All the people of Imaan gather together from every corner of the earth for pilgrimage and to make Tawaaf of the house of Allah. They live together like one family under the leadership of one Kalima and the command of Allah recite Talbiyah. All outward coverings of culture and civilization lay bare and only goodness and humanity are represented as a model.

Our Guide, Leader and Role Model

The Beloved and Blessed Prophet ﷺ has stated, "The one who performs Haj avoiding indecent talks and sinful acts, will return from Haj as free from all sins, like the day his mother gave birth to him." [Bukhari Sahreef]

Nabi ﷺ has also stated, "All sins committed in between performance of one Umrah and the other one expiated the reward of Haj Mabroor (accepted Haj) is nothing but paradise." [Ibne Majah]

Sayyiduna Abu Huraira ؓ reports that Nabi ﷺ said, "A Haji person is forgiven and the one for whom the Haji asks forgiveness is also forgiven." [Bazaar]

Sayyida Ayesha ؓ said that Nabi ﷺ stated, "There will be no accountability for the one who departs for Haj and Umrah and dies on the way, he will be ordered to enter Jannah." [Tabrani]

Risk of Death on Kufr (Disbelief)

The Noble Prophet ﷺ has warned, "The person who has the means of performing Haj and has no apparent obstacles, nor an oppressive ruler, nor any disease that prevents him and still he died without performing Haj, he may die as a Jew or Christian." [Daarimi]

May Allah Ta'ala give us the opportunity to perform Haj and take all those who are going safely. Aameen!

Haj Mubarak!

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IMPORTANCE OF HAVING BREAKFAST

COMPILED BY HASINA BEGUM SAYED

During a busy morning, it's easy to let breakfast fall low in your list of priorities, but taking just a few minutes to have something to eat can really make a difference to your day.

Benefits of eating a wholesome breakfast:

* Breakfast provides many benefits to our health and wellbeing

* Breakfast provides the body and brain with fuel after an overnight fast - that's where its name originates, breaking the fast! Without breakfast you are effectively running on empty, like trying to start the car with no petrol!

* Nutritionists advise that breakfast should be eaten within two hours of waking and a healthy breakfast should provide calories in the range of 20-35% of your guideline daily allowance (GDA).

* Apart from providing us with energy, breakfast foods are good sources of important nutrients such as calcium, iron and B vitamins as well as protein and fibre. The body needs these essential nutrients and research shows that if these are missed at breakfast, they are less likely to be compensated for later in the day. Fruit and vegetables are good sources of vitamins and minerals so try to include a portion of your daily five at breakfast, whether that be a banana or glass of fruit juice.

* Breakfast can be good for waistline too, research shows those who eat breakfast are less likely to be overweight and more likely to be within their ideal weight range compared with breakfast skippers. If you skip breakfast, you're more likely to reach for high sugar and fatty snacks mid-morning.

Cognitive function

Breakfast also restores glucose levels, an essential carbohydrate that is needed for the brain to function. Many studies have shown how eating breakfast can improve memory and concentration levels and it can also make us happier as it can improve mood and lower stress

levels. In studies amongst children, breakfast can improve attainment, behaviour and has been linked to improved grades. Just like any other organ in the body, the brain needs energy to work at it's best!

Energy needs

People's energy needs vary depending on activity levels and life stage but typically men require more energy than women.

Long term health

The NHS says

* "Eating breakfast has long term health benefits. It can reduce obesity, high blood pressure, heart disease and diabetes."

* Breakfast is an excellent occasion to eat together as a family when possible. Establishing good breakfast habits in childhood and maintaining them throughout adolescence may be an important factor in reducing the prevalence of breakfast skipping and developing good eating habits that last a lifetime.

Miracle Drink: Carrot, Beet Root and Apple

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Thanks to this drink! It does not hurt for you to try.

It is like a Miracle Drink! It is simple. You need one beet root, one carrot and one apple that combine together to make the JUICE ! Wash the above, cut with the skin on into pieces and put them into the juicer and immediately you drink the juice.

You can add some lime or lemon for more refreshing taste.

This Miracle Drink will be effective for the following ailments:

1. Prevent cancer cells to develop. It will restrain cancer cells to grow.
2. Prevent liver, kidney, pancreas disease and it can cure ulcer as well.
3. Strengthen the lung, prevent heart attack and high blood pressure.
4. Strengthen the immune system
5. Good for the eyesight, eliminate red and tired eyes or dry eyes
6. Help to eliminate pain from physical training, muscle ache
7. Detoxify, assist bowel movement, eliminate constipation. Therefore it will make skin healthy & LOOK more radiant. It is God sent for acne problem.
8. Improve bad breath due to indigestion, throat infection,
9. Lessen menstrual pain
10. Assist Hay Fever Sufferer from Hay Fever attack.

There is absolutely no side effect. Highly nutritious and easily absorbs! Very effective if you need to loose weight. You will notice your immune system will be improved after 2 week routine. Please make sure to drink immediately from the juicer for best effect.

When to drink it; drink it first thing in the morning with the empty stomach! After one hour you can eat breakfast. For fast results drink 2 times a day, In the morning and before 5 p.m

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STOOP TO CONQUER: 10 Ways of honoring servants

By Sadaf Farooqi

Most Muslims in Eastern countries employ domestic staff as a norm. For some, domestic helpers are a priceless resource who significantly ease our day-to-day chores. Conversely, for others, they can be a source of distress and chagrin.

Many women complain to each other about the trouble they face from the incompetence, treachery, and intentional misdemeanor of their servants. However, we need to remind ourselves that it is in managing our helpers according to Islamic injunctions where the secret lies to get the best out of them.

1. Think of their pay as Sadaqah

We need to change the way we view our servants' wages. By considering it an "expense," we tend to extract "full value" of the money. For instance, even if a maid is sick, her employer might say, "I pay her to work, so she must work." But if we consider the salary a "Sadaqah" that helps fill their bellies, we will Insha Allah be more tolerant of their shortcomings as human beings.

2. Counsel them when they need it

You might notice that your domestic helpers are disturbed on some days. They are human beings who have problems and worries just like us. Ask them what is troubling them; then advise them to have patience and hope in Allah's mercy. Keep the counsel short, but show them that you care.

3. Forgive and forget their mistakes

Just like other human relationships, it is not pleasant to have your past mistakes and wrongs thrown in your face repeatedly. Forgive them for the sake of Allah if they wrong you, and do not be harsh when scolding them.

4. Do not accuse them of stealing, cheating or lying on mere suspicion

Many employers are guilty of this unfair action – as soon as something in the house is missing due to their own absentmindedness, the domestic helper is squarely accused of theft or negligence. "O you who believe! Avoid suspicion as much (as possible): for suspicion in some cases is a sin." (Qur'an, 49:12). Ask them normally if they have seen the missing object, but do not accuse them of theft or misplacement. In most cases, the object is eventually found after the maid has been fired, causing guilt and embarrassment to the employer for life.

5. Informally teach them Islamic manners and knowledge

One of the rights of our domestic helpers upon us is that they be taught about Islam, or given its message if they are non-Muslims. Without being overtly 'preachy', give them small doses of the truth. The best way is to act upon Islam yourself. This will eventually make them love and respect you for the sake of Allah – which results in a sincere relationship devoid of mistrust and treachery.

6. Eat with them occasionally without separating utensils

Domestic helpers are not animals. Some people treat them as if they are unhygienic beings from another planet. Allow

them to use the utensils from which you and your family eat. If they have dirty habits, teach them hygiene. But do not separate their utensils as if they are untouchables. This will make them feel insulted. They will never return an insult with loyalty or obedience. Abu Bakr Bin Hafs said: "Abdullah Bin Umar would never eat food except in the company of an orphan."

7. Give them gifts

Reward their work – whatever it is like – with occasional bonuses in the form of clothing, shoes or other items that you are yourself using. Do not cast off broken, torn or damaged goods to them unless they agree to take them. This is part of the Islamic etiquette taught by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him): "None of you truly believes until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself." (Al-Bukhari and Muslim)

8. Ease work when they are sick

Allow your helpers to go home early by reducing their chores when they are not feeling that well. Help them if they need money for medicines or medical treatment. Consideration such as this, without reminding them of these favors later, is a good way to establish a relationship based on mutual trust and care.

9. They are not robots

Domestic helpers are human beings with feelings and self-esteem. Any treatment that you would dislike for yourself would hurt them too. Scolding them in public, pointing out their faults before others, and allowing your children to mock at them or hit them or treat them disrespectfully are totally unacceptable behaviors. Treat them with honor and dignity.

10. You are not superior

"It is We Who portion out between them their livelihood in the life of this world: and We raise some of them above others in ranks, so that some may command work from others." (Qur'an, 43:32)

It is one of Allah's laws of the universe that some people possess higher worldly ranks than others, so that they employ the services of the latter in return for wages. But this doesn't mean a wealthy person is superior than a poor person. This doesn't mean you are better than your servant.

Islam has mandated lofty treatment with slaves. But we don't show that even to servants who are mere employees, and not slaves.

Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) said to Abu Dharr regarding his treatment of his slave: "They are your brothers and servants whom Allah has placed under your authority. Anyone who has his brother under his authority let him feed him the same food as he eats and dress him in the same clothes as he wears. Do not overwhelm them with work and if you give them work to do then help them with it." (Al-Bukhari and Muslim)

Our servants are not our slaves. But is our treatment as good as what the Prophet (peace be upon him) commanded with regard to slaves during his time?

WHICH IS THE BEST WORK?

BY MOULANA AHMED KHOROLO - SAABERIE CHISHTY DAWAH CENTRE

Beloved friends in IMAAN! We accept that it is not possible to spare a lot of time from a busy life, but it is always possible to spare some time, say about four hours, towards earning for the afterworld. We must always take into consideration, our worldly affairs and worldly people will not let go of us from their strong grip, and this world will not give us time for doing something for the hereafter, unless we try and Endeavour towards the direction. We will have to give up carelessness and adopt a cautious attitude.

The pious slave of Allah always made mention to his people that Almighty Allah has hidden our success and welfare (of this world and the hereafter) in his remembrance. In the Holy Quraan, he commands (remember ALLAH excessively so that you would obtain welfare)

We are told to remember ALLAH at all times and in all states and stop being careless. ALLAH says in the Holy Quraan ;(and remember your lord in your heart with humility and in secrecy and aloud (publicly) in the mornings and evenings and do not become one of the careless.)

Let us take a very important lesson from the teaching of the greatest spiritual teacher; the Holy Prophet ?

let us study it with the sincere intension of implementing it in n our lives.

The Holy Prophet was asked "YAA NABIYALLAH ? ! Which is the best work (act)?"

He replied,' the tongue remaining wet (i.e. active/busy) in the remembrance of ALLAH until the last breath."

Beloved Muslims!! It is natural that one performs the ZIKR (Remembers) of his /her beloved, and wishes to hear only his/her praise. Therefore, staying busy in the ZIKR of ALLAH enriches (fills) you with the love of ALLAH and His Holy Prophet? .

Hazrat SUHAIL BIN ABDULLAH TASTARI (R.A) says: The sign of loving ALLAH is the love of the Holy Quraan! The sign of loving ALLAH and the Holy Quraan is the love of the Holy Prophet ? ! The

sign of loving the Holy Prophet ? is the love of the SUNNAH of the Holy Prophet ? ! The sign of loving the SUNNAH of the Holy Prophet? is the love of the afterworld!

The sign of hating this world is to spend (use) this world for the afterworld!

Let us also study a lovely guidance from Hazrat UMROO BIN UBAID (R.A). He says: "life is a precious jewel. Hence it must be treasured for the

The seeker of the hereafter must perform religious exercise (lead an ascetic/religious life) in this world, also that his outside (public image) and inside becomes one. It is difficult to guard one`s circumstances without gaining full control over one`s outside and inside."

Hazrat IMAAM GHAZAALI (R.A) said: " It is necessary for every MAUMIN (faithful) to stay in a state of WHUDU (ablution). When he loses his WUDHU, he must instantly perform it again and offer two RAKATS of NAFIL (optional) prayers. One must keep imagining himself to be in the august presence of the Holy Prophet ?

One must make patience and forbearance compulsory in his life. He should not return badness (affliction, injustice, loss etc) received from others. He should always seek ALLAH`S pardon for sins committed by him.

One must avoid vanity (arrogance) and hypocrisy, because vanity is an attribute of Satan.

One must view himself as being low and inferior and view the righteous people with respect. This is because if one does not respect the righteous people, ALLAH deprives him from their love.

One who does not understand the respect, holiness and greatest of worship, ALLAH Almighty removes the sweetness of worship from his heart." (MUKASHIFAT-UL-QULOOB)

We must always remember ALLAH in every aspect of our lives.

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he moves away from it,
When he fears Allah
he moves closer to Him"

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OLD FOES

BY FAIZEL KHAMKAR

The 1950's and 1960's was a turning point in global politics. This period saw the change from a colonialist and imperialist policy change to one of neo colonialism. It was the period which saw the world fractured into three groups. The "with", the 'against" and the subjugated states were clearly defined. The war of hegemony brought about a policy of isolation, assassinations of key political figures and vicious labelling and political character assassinations. This total onslaught for political control also resulted in the developing and amassing of weapons of mass destruction. The United States of America under the facade of being the "good guys" led this race. The political policies and methodology was set for the ensuing decades. The cold war became the standard by which governance was measured against. It was a period where allies and enemies were clearly defined against the open agenda of plundering resources irrespective of accepted moral standards.

A methodology based on the above by its very nature cannot be sustainable and a number of developments over the years especially technology started to expose the system in place. The rise of liberation movements normally labelled as terrorist groups had seen the emergence of real terrorist groups through the funding and training by the Western powers to counter the liberation movements. The danger to world peace and real environmental threats saw the appearance of a more vocal civil society. The threat to controlled freedom of expression by real freedom of expression started diluting propaganda normally utilised under a passionate appeal of patriotism. All of this appears to be culminating into a more subtle manner of control based on developing a guilt complexity. This becomes clear upon careful scrutiny of the agenda of Barack Obama on his last tour to Africa. This now necessitated the need to re examine alliances and enemies.

The above would then explain the change of heart towards Cuba. The last remaining barrier of the cold war has now been broken. With the American economy haemorrhaging because of its belligerent policies set decades ago, even the saving of the "small change" must now be seriously considered. The costs of maintaining the isolationist policies would be

interesting reading once correctly calculated and bought to the attention of the public. Furthermore in terms of maintaining key alliances the punitive actions against an economically and military insignificant state has no consequence, in fact it never had nor will it have any importance. This act may however have a greater positive effect on the image of the USA for no other reason than it being based on more solid moral grounds. This is what appears on the surface and we sincerely hope that this is not a cover for other agendas which would affect the poor and repressed.

Another interesting analysis of the above scenario is the agreement entered into with Iran. Iran under its previous regime was considered as an ally. The advent of the new regime initiated by Ayatollah Khomeini was then deemed to be in the opposite or "against" camp as a result of its close association with Russia. Over a period of time utilising one or other excuse crippling sanctions were put in place in order to implement collective punishment directed against the ordinary Iranian. However the costs of keeping alliances that had a mutual outlook towards Iran as the enemy started affecting the imposer of the sanctions itself. This affected both the failing economy and the political image. The prodigal son (the real terrorist groups such as ISIS) created in terms of its historic policies has created major problems for the United States of America. One of the solutions was to create a closer link with someone in the "against" group despite it being a bitter pill to swallow. This in turn created tension with its extravagant son (i.e. Israel) and fancy footwork by the diplomatic corps will now be in order if it wishes to maintain its ally in the Middle East. This was publicly alluded to by the President of Israel in his scathing attack on the prime minister of Israel. What remains a mystery is the sincerity behind the agreement. This would very well only be a pretext to buy time. The control over the oil has been reduced to such an extent that the falling oil price is hurting the American economy and this agreement may have ambitious to reverse the trend of having a free falling oil price.





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INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOCUS

BY FAKIR HASSEN

Jeddah , SAUDI ARABIA – The surname Bin Laden is synonymous with the terror attacks masterminded by Osama bin Laden on the twin towers in New York that unleashed the unprecedented violence and Islamophobia across the globe that continues unabated. But there is another Bin Laden whose death this month was mourned by million for exactly the opposite reason. Sanaa Bin Laden, who was among three Bin Laden family members who died in a small plane crash in the United Kingdom, was renowned for her charity work. Revered as 'Mother of Orphans', she helped many orphans in Jeddah and Makkah. Many Saudis, however, heard about the extent of Sanaa's charity work after her death.

New York, USA - The United Nations Security Council has unanimously passed a United States-drafted resolution laying the groundwork for an inquiry that would find who is to blame for chemical weapons attacks in Syria's long and bloody civil war which has already left more than 250 000 dead. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has 20 days to form the panel and make recommendations about how the investigation will be conducted. The panel would then make its first report within 90 days. The adoption of the resolution came after the US struck a deal with Russia, a strong backer of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Ankara, TURKEY - A newly married couple decided to use the money they would have spent on their wedding banquet to feed Syrian refugees. Fethullah Üzümcüoğlu and Esra Polat shared a meal with 4 000 Syrian displaced people in the south-central city of Kilis, after the groom's father, who is an active volunteer with a

charity organisation, told them that holding a banquet was "unnecessary" when people living "next door" did not even have enough food. Turkey has hosted more than a million Syrian refugees since the conflict began there in 2011.

London, UK - By 2030, Muslim consumers are expected to reach 26 percent of the global population, according to a new paper released by Euromonitor International, offering many opportunity for companies operating in this market. The Muslim population is the the second-largest population and the fastest growing religion globally in 2015, and is projected to increasingly claim a bigger share of the world's consumer spending. 'Doing Business in the Halal Market: Products, Trends and Growth Opportunities' examines the specific challenges and opportunities for a variety of products from food and beverages to beauty for key halal markets across the globe.

Abuja, NIGERIA - A leading Nigerian civil rights group has condemned calls to ban the hijab in northern Nigeria, warning that any such ban would offer no solution to the problem of Boko Haram extremism. The association implored the Nigerian government "to remain focused in its fight to end the insurgency and not be distracted by those calling for the ban on the use of hijab," said Hajia Amina B. Omoti, the National President of the Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria (FOMWAN). Problems surrounding Nigerian Muslims' hijab started after the latest attacks carried out by veiled Muslim women.

Buraidah, SAUDI ARABIA - The world's biggest dates festival in this city started this month and will

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continue for a total of 40 days. The Guinness Book of World Records lists it as the largest dates market in the world. The head of Qassim Municipality and the supervisor of the festival, Saleh Al-Ahmad, said it is Buraidah's main event every year. "The festival greatly boosts the province's economy as tourists come from all over. The festival's executive manager Abdulaziz Al-Mahoos said the festival is not only a chance to celebrate but is also a research opportunity. "The festival gathers date enthusiasts from all over the country at one place. We will conduct surveys and collect statistics on the sales and revenues throughout the festival."

Cairo, EGYPT - The Muslim population of India is 180 million, Indian Deputy National Security Advisor Dr Arvind Gupta said during a visit to Al Azhar University. The Imam of Al-Azhar Sheikh Mohamed Ahmed El-Tayeb explained that Al-Azhar has a program designed to train foreign imams to deal with the contemporary challenges and to fight terrorism and ideological deviation, which both hurt individuals, communities and nations. He stressed Al-Azhar's readiness to cooperate with the Indian government in this domain. Gupta said: "Al-Azhar is an international institution, respected by the whole world, and we are interested to cooperate with it and to learn about its vision to counter extremism and terrorism".



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