

'Al Karūṣā'

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محررم

MUHARRAM 1439/2017

Its the Present, not the Past, that is in our hands!

At this important time of the year, muslims are poised for a mindset adjustment, considering it is our new year. Muharram with its sacred Youmul 'Aashoora on the 10th day, traced to key events in the history of the earliest nations and their Divine messengers, glorified by the last messenger Muhammad (ﷺ), who set the example of commemorating it.

Sometimes overshadowing it is the anniversary of Karbala, a date co-inciding with the original 'Aashoora celebration, but in total contrast to the tone of 'Aashoora. The latter is an expression of "thanksgiving", whereas Karbala is lamented, and often outrightly mourned.

Understandably, it recounts the tragedy of the circumstances relating to the martyrdom of Imam Husayn (عليه السلام) and members of the Prophet's (ﷺ) family, when they challenged the irreligious ruler and political order of the day.

Sunnis, who make up the majority of muslims in the world, pay respectful attention to Karbala, only a minority from their folds ignore it, with some extremism evident in factions who oppose or even challenge it.

In South Africa, it is popular amongst the sufi-oriented sunnis, presenting exaltations to eulogise the endeared martyrs in many forms, including 10-day lecture programmes, "taazia" parades and "kitchra" banquets.

The minority sh'ite sect base their religious ideology largely on Karbala and see it as a redemptive purgation of the ummah, from its ills and errors, past and future, as a result of the sacrifice made by Imam Husayn and the Martyrs. Some parallels may be detected from their suggestions resembling "salvationist" beliefs emphasised by the spilling of blood.

Notwithstanding the different opinions, valuable lessons may be learned from Karbala and the righteous conduct of such exemplary personalities who gave up their noble lives in the quest for Truth, and the challenges of their day.

Islam will remain governed by the unblemished criterion of the Qur'an and its

personification in the model of the "seal of messengers" Muhammad Rasoolullah (ﷺ). Its message a universal one inclusive of all in creation, equitable and just, never elitist or biased, but based on the creations' striving for excellence in honour and subjugation of the Almighty, Allah al-Azeez.

The directive handed to Adam and the Children of Adam was the trusteeship of the Earth and maintaining truth and justice, in spreading good, restraining evil. This is the overview of the laws and commandments that were ever scripted by the Creator and dispatched by his Divinely-appointed messengers throughout history.

Never has the need for re-establishing the acceptance and adherence to this vital principle been more critical than now.

The world needs Islam. Muslims need to facilitate the message to the masses. For this, they the muslims need to be and behave as muslims, the likes of which were in abundance in the social order set up by the Holy Prophet (ﷺ), affectionately referred to as his Sahaabah. They would forever remain the nucleus of his Nation, the ummah, which would include every muslim until the last day, for whom he prayed even with his dying breath.

The challenges of today are enough to shake us up from our cave-like slumber to face the Myanmars, Yemens, Kashmirs, Syrias, Iraqs, Afghanistans, and Palestines, as challenges greater in scale to some of the battles centuries ago.

It is logical and righteous for us to react, and act now, since we are the custodians of the "trusteeship" and duty-bound to exercise its responsibility. Our efforts to effect change would be less futile than being extravagant in our consideration of the bygone which has been settled and beyond any scope of wishful change, except in the value of the lessons they offer.

If there is such a thing as a "new world order" ready to be sprung upon us under satanic dictatorship, then Islam remains as its most formidable opposition.

That is the call of today!

ABU UBAIDAH IBN AL - JARAAH ﷺ

Abu Ubaidah Ibn Al-Jaraah was the man whose right hand the Prophet (ﷺ) held and said: "In every nation there exists a man worthy of all trust and the trustworthy of this nation is Abu Ubaidah Ibn Al Jaraah. Amongst other things Abu Ubaidah was entrusted with the task of being the commander of commanders. He was appointed commander of the army, which included Umar (رضي الله عنه) and Abu Bakr (رضي الله عنه). It is Abu Ubaidah Ibn Al Jaraah that Umar (رضي الله عنه) spoke of on his deathbed. He proclaimed that the task of caliphate would have been assigned to "the trustworthy of ALLAH (ﷻ) and His Prophet (ﷺ)," had Abu Ubaidah been alive.

Abu Ubaidah was one of the early believers who readily renounced the world and willingly endured all its hardships. In the battle of Uhud, Abu Ubaidah was one of those men who formed a shield around the Prophet (ﷺ) to protect Him (ﷺ) from being attacked. He tried to stay as close as possible to his Beloved (ﷺ). If the fighting carried him away from the Prophet (ﷺ), he would try to keep his eyes attached to his Beloved (ﷺ) so that he could swiftly return to protect Him (ﷺ) when the need arose. As Abu Ubaidah was intensely involved in the fighting, it came to his attention that the Noble Prophet (ﷺ) of ALLAH (ﷻ) had been struck with an arrow. Abu Ubaidah lost all self-control and forcefully fought his way through to the Prophet (ﷺ). As he approached he saw blood and two rings of the Prophet (ﷺ) chain on the Mubaarak face. He rushed towards the Prophet (ﷺ) and was heard making this niyyat: "O ALLAH, accept this deed as a sign of obedience." Both he and Abu Bakr (رضي الله عنه) reached the Prophet (ﷺ) at the same time. Abu Ubaidah pleaded with Abu Bakr to give him the honour of removing the rings. Abu Bakr (رضي الله عنه) agreed. Abu Ubaidah pulled the first one out with his upper front teeth and the teeth fell out with it. He pulled the second ring out with his lower front teeth and those teeth also fell out.

Allow me to give you one example to demonstrate to you the trustworthiness of Abu Ubaidah. He was appointed commander in the Al-khabat expedition. It was a difficult mission and the army had a long distance to cover. The only supplies that Abu Ubaidah had was a knapsack full of dates. When they ran out of dates, the army ate withered leaves and water to survive. They went to such extents of self-denial and deprivation under the command of Abu Ubaidah but did not waiver from their mission. Abu Ubaidah was

determined to fulfill his trust and accomplish his mission, at all costs! Something extraordinary happened on this expedition, Hazrat Jabir (رضي الله عنه) narrates, "We spent approximately one month on this journey and after beginning to eat the leaves of trees, ALLAH (ﷻ) granted us sustenance in a form of a fish as huge as a mountain which was thrown ashore by the waves of the sea. As a result, 300 Sahaabah ate from it in a period of 18 days and wiped its fat on their bodies, leaving for Madinah afterwards while carrying pieces of meat from it. Upon reaching the city, we immediately proceeded to the Prophet (ﷺ) and informed him of this incident. Hearing our story, He (ﷺ) replied that ALLAH (ﷻ) has provided for us and then asked for some fish and ate from it. This fish was so immense that Abu Ubaidah, took two of its ribs and fixed it into the ground – making it stand upright to form an arch, which was later easily passed through by a camel!" (Bukhari Sharif, Vol. 2, Pg 625)

The Prophet (ﷺ) held Abu Ubaidah in high regard, especially for his trustworthiness, yet he remained humble. The great caliphs that came afterwards also gave preference to Abu Ubaidah for his trustworthiness but he continued to accept this esteem with modesty. One example in this regard was at the time of the caliphate of Umar Ibn Al khataab (رضي الله عنه). The Muslim army was engaged in one of the great decisive battles at the time, under the commander of Khalid bin Waleed. Umar (رضي الله عنه) had decided to dismiss Khalid and replace him with Abu Ubaidah. On receiving the message Abu Ubaidah decided to keep it a secret. Only after victory had been achieved under Khalid did he reveal the message. Khalid bin Waleed was amazed and enquired about his motive behind concealing the message. Abu Ubaidah replied: "I was afraid lest it should cause any confusion that might affect the army's morale. We do not crave life or its splendor. We are brothers before ALLAH." Abu Ubaidah was appointed commander-in-chief of Syria. The Syrian army was the mightiest and best in terms of number, equipment and victory. Still, Abu Ubaidah remained modest. One could not distinguish him from any other member of the army. His house had no furniture more than a sword, a shield and a saddlebag. Abu Ubaidah departed from this world and his remains lie in Jordan, the land that he purified from paganism and oppression.

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MUHARRAM-UL-HARAAM

(THE SACRED MONTH)

In contemporary times it is depressing to note that many Muslims have become slaves of the Western world and deny Divine Commandments, either actively or passively. Imam al-Ghazali enunciates in his "Ihya ulum-Id-Din": *The World looks stagnant, but it is moving; It looks promising, yet it is deceiving.* Therefore it is apparent that humankind and many modern Muslims are striving for material progress at the expense of moral and spiritual progress, little realizing that life is an illusion and death is a reality.

Modernization has led to the destruction of spiritual values of some Muslims. Abuse of time, technological advancements, introduction of man made social values, extravagant lifestyles, injustice, etc. has a devastating impact on the Iman of Muslims. Instead of Muslims opposing the Western Social System the weak Muslims have succumb to their immoral practices by being active participants in programmes devised by them intentionally to encapsulate Muslims into their philosophy of life. This active participation leads to neglect of Divine Commandments, resulting in the spiritual loss of individuals as pronounced by Allah ﷻ in the Qur'an:

By the (the token of) Time (through the Ages), Verily Man is in loss, Except such as have faith and do righteous deeds, And (join together) in the mutual teaching Of Truth, and of Patience and Constancy. (103: 1-3)

In Chapter 7, Verse 31 of the Qur'an, Allah ﷻ cautions humankind about personal care, destruction of health and the wasting of time in unproductive pursuit.

Since the doors of repentance are still open and the Mercy of Allah ﷻ is Infinite, we should seriously use the time (Sacred months and Days) to educate, contemplate, repent and strive to greater spiritual heights in preparation for the Hereafter.

The month of Muharram al-Haram heralds the beginning of the New Year in the Islamic calendar, providing Muslims the opportunity to strive morally, socially and spiritually to attain nearness to Allah ﷻ.

THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE ISLAMIC NEW YEAR AND THE NEW YEAR OF THE GREGORIAN CALENDAR

It must be emphasized that there is a clear distinction between the Islamic concept of a new year and the

Western concept of a new year. Experience, social studies of the secular system and an exposition of the Western culture and celebrations of a new year by the media, reveals an absence of God-consciousness because the celebrations in such cases involve immoral acts such as wine drinking, extravagant parties which involve the free intermingling of sexes as well as the indulgence of other harmful acts to the self and others. It is disheartening to note that some modern Muslim have given greater priority to celebrations of the new year in accordance to Western norms and as such have caused destruction to themselves at their own free will. The youth, and in some cases adults have become ignorant of the pristine teachings of Islam. Hence, religion has become a secondary issue to them and therefore they indulge in vices which are totally condemned by Islam. In some societies, Muslim parents have allowed their children to live by society based values, rather than the values prescribed by the Qur'an and Sunnah of the Beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings upon him).

The Beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) in his Farewell Sermon, during the month of Zil-Hajj issued a stern warning:

"See that you do not return to the period of al-Jahilliyah when I am gone and do not carry religious matters too far ahead, that you may end up cutting one another's throat."

The defiance of this warning by the Munafiqun (hypocrites), who amended Divine Law and caused disunity amongst the Muslim Ummah led to the Battle of Karbala in 61 A.H. where Hadrat Hussayn ؑ demonstrated the true spirit of sacrifice and surrender to Allah ﷻ.

The Islamic New Year should inculcate within us the spirit of patience, prayer and sacrifice for the pleasure of Allah ﷻ. There is a dire need to redeem our character, unite the Muslim 'Ummah and regenerate our Iman as commanded by Allah ﷻ:

O ye who believe! Seek help with patient Perseverance and Prayer: for Allah is with those Who patiently persevere. And say not of those Who are slain in the Way Of Allah: they are dead. Nay they are living, Though ye perceive it not. (2:153-154)

WHO IS A SUFI?

BY HAZRAT BABA FARID

According to Hazrat Baba Farid, a Sufi must possess the following:

- 1.) He must forget himself and the world in the love and devotion of God.
- 2.) He must overlook the faults of others however serious.
- 3.) He must close his eyes, i.e. he must not look towards things declared haraam (forbidden) in Islam.
- 4.) He must become deaf also so that he may not hear all things undesirable.
- 5.) He must become dumb too so that he may not be able to speak about things which must not be spoken about.
- 6.) He must cut off his legs i.e. he must act lame so that he may not be able to move himself to comply his Nafs-e-Ammara which tries to take him to undesirable places.

Regarding these qualities, Hazrat says:

"If any of these qualities are absent from the character of a dervish, then he is a mere liar and hypocrite. A dervish who aspires to acquire worldly wealth and honour is not a dervish; he is a cheat who brings only disgrace to the noble Order of dervishes."

"Toleration and forbearance", the saint says "should be the salt of a dervish's life, even if a naked sword were put upon his head, he should be forgivingly happy and should never curse the persecutor."

There are 3 important qualities of a dervish:

1. To know the world and then renounce it.
2. Faithful obedience to God.
3. Fear of God and His retribution.

Hazrat Baba Farid has stressed upon the maintenance of a Sufi's character which, he says, "can only be built if he stays away from the world and refuses to eat what is forbidden in Islamic law."

On the dress of Sufis, Hazrat says:

"The dress of Sufis is the dress worn by great prophets and religious founders of the world and hence it must be given utmost respect, and that only deserving dervishes should wear it. One who adorns a Sufi's dress must break up all relations with the world. If he uses this sacred garb to pursue or acquire worldly prosperity, he not only deceives himself but also deceives the world and Almighty God."

Defining important characteristics of a Sufi, Hazrat says:

A Sufi is one who has nothing corrosive around his heart which he must keep transparently clear and clean, and which must know no treacherous intrigues.

Sufis are those who observe strict silence and remain constantly bewildered under the influence of Divine Light.

Sufis, merged wholeheartedly in the devotion of God, are lost to all the rest of creation (except God).

It is one of the glories of Tasawwuf that Sufis transport themselves to the 7th Heaven five times daily during their Namaz.

According to Baba Farid, "Tasawwuf, is a code of man's moral and religious life and conduct. Although a Sufi is cut off from the world, he never curses or looks down upon its affairs, i.e. he has neither love nor hatred for the world."

Baba Farid emphasises that "a mureed must hold his Pir-o-Murshid in the highest reverence". He says, "Seven days in the service and company of a Pir-o-Murshid are equal to 700 years of devotion." He adds that "a Sufi dies when he gives up his devotion and 'zikr' and he lives when he is engrossed in them."

He says "the more a Sufi suffers sorrow, pain and hardship, the more nearer he becomes to God."

Hazrat Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti always prayed to God to send more hardships and pain and sorrows upon him so that he could strengthen his faith in God."

God most gracious takes away prosperity from one who does not give charity or zakaat.

God most gracious takes away health from one who does not offer 'sacrifice' in His name.

God most gracious takes away faith at the time of death if one does not offer Namaz.

Hazrat says, "It is necessary for the dervish not to worry about 'rizq' (provision of sustenance). If he worries, he commits a sin against his 'faith' in God."

Regarding contentment, Hazrat says:

"He is a wise and brave man who, in all his worldly affairs, depends upon the will and pleasure of God and remains patient and content under each and every circumstance. A content person must have faith in the love, fear and mercy of God. It will save him from sin and enable him to win the blessings of God."

Sama

Hazrat Baba Farid was fond of Sama and fought against its antagonists. Regarding Sama and its reaction upon great Sufis, he says:

"Sama pacifies the heart of a divine lover. Firstly it moves the heart; secondly, it creates unconsciousness and, thirdly, this unconsciousness becomes so absorbing that even if one thousand swords were raining upon his head, he would not know of it."



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DUA-E-ASHURA TO REQUEST ASSURANCE OF LIFE

The recitation of this dua has been proven on many instances. Hazrat Imaam Zainul Aabideen (Radiyallahu Anhu) mentions that whosoever recites this dua on the Day of Ashura anytime from sunrise to sunset or has someone to recite it for them whilst they listen, then Insha-Allah they would be granted the assurance of life for that year.

دُعَاةِ عَاشُورَاءِ

يَا قَابِلَ تَوْبَةٍ أَدْرِكْ يَوْمَ عَاشُورَاءِ يَا قَابِلَ كَرْبِ ذِي التَّوْنِ يَوْمَ عَاشُورَاءِ يَا جَامِعَ شَمْلِ يَعْقُوبَ يَوْمَ عَاشُورَاءِ يَا سَامِعَ دَعْوَةِ مُوسَى وَهَارُونَ يَوْمَ عَاشُورَاءِ يَا مُغِيثَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ مِنَ النَّارِ يَوْمَ عَاشُورَاءِ يَا رَافِعَ أَدْرِيسَ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ يَوْمَ عَاشُورَاءِ يَا مُجِيبَ دَعْوَةِ صَالِحٍ فِي النَّاقَةِ يَوْمَ عَاشُورَاءِ يَا نَاصِرَ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَوْمَ عَاشُورَاءِ يَا رَحْمَنَ الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ وَرَحِمَهُمَا صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَصَلِّ عَلَى جَمِيعِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ وَأَقْضِ حَاجَاتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ وَأَطْلِ عُمَرَ بْنَ أَبِي طَاعَنٍ وَمَجْنَنَكَ وَمَجْنَنَكَ وَرِصَاكَ وَأَحْيَا حَيَوَةَ طَيْبَةَ وَتَوَفَّنَا عَلَى الْإِيمَانِ وَالْإِسْلَامِ بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ اللَّهُمَّ بَعِزِّ الْحَسَنِ وَأَخِيهِ وَأُمِّهِ وَأَبِيهِ وَجَدِّهِ وَبَنِيهِ فَرِّجْ عَنَّا مَا نَحْنُ فِيهِ ۝

7 TIMES

سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ مَلَأَ الْمِيزَانَ وَمُنْتَهَى الْعِلْمِ وَمَبْلَغُ الرِّضَى وَزِينَةُ الْعَرْشِ لَا مَدْجَ وَلَا مَنَاجَاةَ مِنَ اللَّهِ إِلَّا إِلَيْهِ سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ عَدَدَ الشَّعْرِ وَالْوُتُرِ عَدَدَ كَلِمَاتِ اللَّهِ التَّامَّاتِ كُلِّهَا نَسْأَلُكَ السَّلَامَةَ بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ هُوَ حَسْبُنَا وَنِعْمَ الْوَكِيلُ نِعْمَ الْمَوْلَى وَنِعْمَ النَّصِيرُ وَلَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ الْعَلِيِّ الْعَظِيمِ وَصَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَعَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ عَدَدَ ذَرَاتِ الْوُجُودِ وَعَدَدَ مَعْلُومَاتِ اللَّهِ وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ۝

Ya qaabila taubati Aadam Youma Aashura, Ya faarija karbi zin nooni Youma Aashura, Ya jaami'a shamli Ya'qoob Youma Aashura, Ya Saami'a Da'wati Moosa wa Haroone Youma Aashura, Ya mugheethe Ebrahime minan naari Youma Aashura, Ya raafi'a Idreese elas samaaee Youma Aashura, Ya Mujeebe da'wati saaleh fin naaqati Youma Aashura, Ya Naasira Sayyidina Muhammadin Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam Youma Aashura, Ya Rahmanud Dunya wal aakhirati wa Raheemahuma Salli Ala Sayyidina Muhammadew wa ala aali Sayyidina Muhammadew wa Salli Ala Jamee'il Ambiyae wal mursaleena waqdi haajatina fid dunya wal aakhirati wa atil umranaa fi taa'atika wa mahabbatika wa ridhaaka wa ahyina hayaatan tayyibataw wa ta waffana alal imaani wal islaami bi rah matika yaa arhamar Raahimeen. Allahuma bi iznil hasani wa akhihi wa ummihi wa abihi wa jaddihi wa banihi far rij anna ma nahnun fi. (Then 7 Times) Subhanallahi mil al mizaani wa muntahal ilmi wa mablaghar ridhaa wa zeenatal arshi laa malja'a wa laa man jaa'a minal laahi illa ilay. Subhanallahi ada dash shaf'ee wal watriwa ada da kalimaatil lahi tammati kulliha nas alooka salaamata bi rahamtika yaa arhamar Raahimeen. Wa huwa hasbunaa wa ni'mal wakeel. Ni'mal moulaw wa ni'man naseer. Wa laa howla wa la quwata illa billahil aleeyal azeem. Wa Sallahu Ta'aala ala Sayyidina Mohammadew wa ala aalihi wa sabhihi wa ala mu'mineena wal mu'minaati, wal Muslimeena wal Muslimaati ada da zarraatil fujudi wa ada da ma'loomatil laahi wal hamdu lillahi rabbil aalimeen

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8 COMMON SUMMER AILMENTS

COMPILED BY HASINA BEGUM SAYED

Surprisingly enough, there are a number of ailments, diseases and conditions that can bother you more during summer than in winter.

What health issues associated with summer could potentially affect you?

1. Bug bites

The itching and swelling of insect bites can be nasty irritants if you're unlucky to be get bitten, let alone the pain it can leave behind. The symptoms of an insect bite are all caused by the critter's venom. Often there are delayed reactions from a venomous bite that can bring about additional symptoms, including hives, painful joints, fever and swollen glands.

Most people experience mild reactions to bites, which can be treated by removing the stinger, should there be one, and washing the area with soap and water, applying a topical cream, an ice pack and taking a pain relief.

Some people can encounter severe reactions to bug bites, such as swollen lips and throat, nausea, breathing problems, dizziness, confusion, shock and palpitations. Which should all be addressed by seeking emergency help immediately.

2. Summer colds

Many people think of the common cold as a typical ailment of winter, but make no mistake, you can come down with a cold during summer just as much.

Common summer situations such as air conditioning, travelling and airplane flights can make the symptoms worse. Air conditioning sucks moisture from the air, and may cause some drying of the protective mucus lining in the nose and predispose us to infection. While being tightly packed around other people can spread infection, as well as increase the chances of obtaining a virus.

3. Heat stroke

Heat stroke, or hyperthermia, is caused by prolonged exposure to high temperatures in the sun.

Symptoms and signs that flare up prior to an episode of heat stroke include headaches, dizziness, weakness, which in severe cases can lead to unconsciousness, organ failure and potentially death.

Treatment for heat stroke includes cooling the

outside of the body with water, cold air and ice packs. People with hyperthermia should seek medical attention, in order to be tested for internal complications like muscle breakdown, which can damage kidneys.

4. Summer headache

Spending a lot of time outside and taking up a variety of summer activities in the hot sun can cause a bad summer headache.

As the mercury soars, so does the risk of getting a headache. One potential cause for this niggling pain is down to the heat making blood vessels in the head expand, making them apply pressure against nerve endings. While another reason for a summer headache could be down to dehydration and strenuous exercise in hot weather.

Drinking enough water should take care of a dehydration headache, while over-the-counter painkillers usually alleviate headaches brought on by exercise and overexposure.

5. Sunburn

Extended periods of sunshine, also comes the danger of sunburn. Caused by UV rays, the rays from the sun that damage your skin cells, sunburn can be extremely serious for some people.

The risk of harm can depend on variables such as the time of day, how long spent in the sun and whether sun protection is used or not.

6. Food poisoning

Pre-prepared food in the warm months should be handled hygienically and stored accordingly while kept as cool as possible to avoid food poisoning.

7. Heat rash

Heat rash, or prickly heat, is a red or pink rash that usually occurs on the areas of the body covered by clothing. Heat rash develops in humid and hot conditions where sweat ducts become blocked and become swollen. The creates small raised dots or pimples on the skin that often causes itching and irritation.

8. Waterborne conditions

As the weather warms up and becomes brighter, people enjoy spending more time outside taking part in leisurely water activities, but this still comes with risks of bacterial infections and other waterborne illnesses.



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VIRTUES AND EXCELLENCE OF MUHARRAM

MOULANA SHAH FAISAL KHAN SAHEB

GRATITUDE AND CONGRATULATIONS

First and foremost we thank Almighty Allah, and through the waseela of his beloved and final prophet r granted us with this beautiful Islamic new year known as the month of Muharram-ul-Haram which is one of the four sacred divine months and at the same time we take this opportunity to extend our congratulations to the entire Islamic world especially to all the Hajeess who have returned from pilgrimage. Allah Ta'aala accepts all the Hajeess hajj and grants every muslim the opportunity to visit the blessed city of Makkah al Mukarramah and Madeena al Munawwarah Ameen.

INTRODUCTION

With the sighting of the new moon of Muharram (Which is the beginning of the new Islamic month). Muharram itself means sacred and is from those months which have been mentioned as sacred in the Holy Quraan.

Almighty Allah says in the Holy Quraan: "Four of them (Zil Qad, Zil Haj, Rajab, and Muharram) are sacred". (Surah Taubah)

VIRTUES

From the 4 months Muharram has been blessed with the certain specific virtues.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ has said: "The best of fast besides the fast of Ramadaan is the fasting of Muharram". (Muslim)

In another hadeeth

Hazrat Ibn Abbas ؓ reports: That the peace of our hearts and minds, the most generous and kind prophet r has said: "The one who keeps a fast in the month of Muharram will receive the reward of 30 fast for each fast (in this sacred month)."

Although the fast of Muharram are not compulsory, the one who fast out of his own will be entitled to a great reward by Allah Ta'aala. The hadeeth signifies that the fast of the month of Muharram are the most rewardable amongst the Nafl fasts. The hadeeth does not mean that the reward can only be attained by fasting for the whole month. On the contrary each fast during this month has a merit; therefore one should take advantage of this opportunity

THE DAY OF ASHURA

Although the month of Muharram is sacred as a whole month but the 10th Muharram is the most sacred amongst all. This day is called the Day of Ashura and it is the one of the most sacred days in the Islamic calendar.

According to Ibn Abbas ؓ When the Holy Prophet migrated to Medina he found out that the Jews of Medina used to fast on the 10th of Muharram, They said that it was the day on which Prophet Moosa ؑ crossed the red sea miraculously and the Pharaoh was drowned in it, on hearing this from the Jews the Holy Prophet ﷺ has said: we are more closer to Moosa ؑ

than you, so the Prophet ﷺ directed the Muslims to fast on the day of Ashura. (Abu Dawood)

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS THAT OCCURRED ON THE DAY OF ASHURA

There are several incidents which took place on the day of Ashura which have made their place in the glorious history, here are some of them.

- a) Rain descended from the skies for the first time.
- b) Mercy was revealed for the first time.
- c) Arsh, Kursi, sky, earth, sun, stars, moon, heaven was created.
- d) Adam ؑ's repentance was accepted on this day.
- e) Adam ؑ was born on this day and entered jannah.
- f) Hazrat Ebrahim ؑ was released and was safe from the fire of Nimrood.
- g) Hazrat Esa ؑ was raised up to the sky.
- h) Hazrat Muhammed ﷺ married Hazrat Khadija ؓ on this day.
- i) Imaam Hussain ؑ was martyred.
- j) The Day of Judgement will take place on this day.

RECOMMENDED DEEDS ON ASHURA

We learnt from previous narrations that there are lots of virtues on this day of Ashura in the court of Allah that is why Allah has chosen this day to be the day on which Imaam Hussain was martyred the beloved prophet r grandson.

Sayyidina Abbas ؓ narrated that when the prophet r fasted and ordered others to fast on the day of Ashura, some companions complained that this was a day which was commemorated by the Jews and the Christians as well as muslims. The messenger ﷺ said: If I remain on this earth until next year, I shall fast on the 9th (as well as the 10th) (Muslim)

The Jurist state that it is sunnah to fast on the 9th and 10th of Muharram.

The Prophet ﷺ stated : whoever performs four rakaats salaah on the day of Ashura reciting in every rakaat surah Ikhlâas 11 times after surah faatiha, Allah shall forgive 50 years of his/her sin and shall create a pulpit (mimbar) of light for that person. (Nuzha tul majalis)

It is stated by Sayyidina Ibn Mas'ood ؓ that the Prophet ﷺ said: "whoever is generous towards his family on the day of Ashura he shall always remain in affluence throughout the year. (Maathabata bis-Sunnah)

CONCLUSION

May Allah through the Sadaqa of his beloved Rasool ﷺ and Ahle bait, shower His divine mercy upon the entire ummat of Nabi ﷺ

ISLAMIC NEW YEAR MUBARAK!

Cry, Our Beloved, Starving Continent And Its People

BY DR. FIROZ OSMAN

STATISTICS SA (Stats SA) released figures that show more than 50% of South Africans (about 30 million people) have been condemned to poverty with about 13 million living in extreme poverty.

The slide towards poverty is illustrated by an apocryphal story of a man standing beside a river. Suddenly he notices a baby struggling in the downstream current. He immediately jumps in to rescue it. No sooner has he deposited the baby on the shore, he sees another. The babies come faster and faster. He is so busy rescuing them that he fails to look upstream to see who is throwing them in.

Who or what is responsible for throwing so many people into penury? Has the Struggle to bring a better life for South Africans failed? We have, fortunately, not yet reached the spectre of famine haunting parts of Africa, where more than 20 million in Somalia, Nigeria and South Sudan are facing starvation.

The question is: how is it that South Africa, with its excellent infrastructure, gold reserves and modern economy, has collapsed 23 years after liberation? Also, how does such a scale of suffering occur on our continent of 1.2 billion people, so rich in mineral wealth and oil and land mass? A major cause of poverty and famines is corruption, conflict and war. Geographically strategic Somalia has been at war

since 1995 with numerous foreign interventions and famine has been a parallel occurrence. It now faces its third famine in 25 years. South Sudan has half its population facing starvation and is a country floating on oil.

Western oil companies in cahoots with corrupt government officials loot about \$140 billion (R1.8 trillion) a year of Nigeria's black gold while nearly two-thirds of its people live on less than R30 a day. Instead of being wealthy and the envy of the world, Nigerian cities are filled with homeless children begging.

Drive through the streets of Joburg, Pretoria, Cape Town and Durban, and you will also see the same desperation.

Many revolutionary leaders who freed their people from colonialism rule through the very oppressive structures they overthrew. Combating poverty will involve processes of political, economic, cultural and social change, and eradicate institutional corruption, which requires a paradigm shift.

A higher socio-economic order needs to evolve to ensure wealth is deployed to meet the human needs, and not political leaders' greed. This requires a significant change in the mindset of those who own, control and manage corporations and businesses.



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Burma: Where Were the Muslims?

BY KHALID BAIG

Just imagine the year is 2100 CE, long after we are all dead. A school child is studying Muslim history of the last century. He finds extremely disturbing events that took place at the beginning of that century. More than a million people were persecuted with murders, expulsions from homes, and dishonoring of Muslim women. The most disturbing fact is that it was not that Muslim armies fought and lost; these were simply one-sided battles with armies of murderers, rapists, and thugs victimizing innocent and helpless people.

Where were the Muslims, he wonders. He finds that despite a successful effort by their adversaries to reduce their numbers through birth control, there were still 1.2 billion of them in the world. They were on all continents, in all countries. More than 50 countries in the world had majority Muslim populations and Muslim rulers. Did they have no armies or weapons? Actually, they had big armies and lot of weapons. One country was even a nuclear power and had successfully developed ballistic missiles that could hit faraway targets. Another Muslim country with a big army was just next to the troubled area. Some of the countries were very rich. Together, they had sufficient resources to stop the atrocities.

Maybe they did not get the news of the tragic events in time. Actually, they did have good communication equipment. Although they did not really control that equipment and those controlling it used to color and distort things a lot, yet Muslims everywhere were able to hear and see the horrors faced by their fellow brothers and sisters as they were taking place. They saw their plight, they heard their cries, but not a soldier moved from the Muslim world to help those whose lives, honors, and properties were being trampled simply because they were Muslims.

Maybe they had become totally indifferent to the plight of their fellows. Maybe they had lost their faith--- no, lost their soul --- so they just did not care. Actually, despite all their problems, individual Muslims all over the world were still deeply concerned about their fellows. They talked about them. They raised money for them. They prayed for them. They desperately petitioned whoever they thought could help.

Then what was happening? The student is perplexed. As he continues to dig through historical accounts, he finds something curious. As the massacres were continuing in Burma, a big army assembled by Saudi Arabia was busy attacking Muslims in Yemen.

Their enemies had certainly done their part in igniting the flames of those internecine wars, but they had tried that throughout history. The intriguing development that facilitated this fiasco was a strange new ideology that had gripped the Muslim world. The devastating ideology was that of the nation-state. According to it each Muslim country was an independent nation. And so they became. Each with its own national flag, national anthem, national days, and national interests. As Muslim governments took legitimacy from the concept of nation-state, they owed their allegiance to it also --- when they did not owe their allegiance to their foreign masters. In the halls of power, the ummah died.

Muslim leaders did talk about the ummah but only as a remote, ceremonial entity. The governments and armies were there to protect the national boundaries and national interests; nobody looked after the boundaries or interests of the ummah.

The murders, arsons, and dishonoring of women in Kashmir was not the concern of anyone except Pakistan and that only because the area was a strategic source of Pakistan's water. If it were not for the "national interests," Pakistan would have nothing to do with them either. The brutalization of Muslims in Palestine was not the concern of anyone except the Palestinians themselves. Even Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa had become Palestinian problems. Burma was responsibility of no one, because it did not exist at all on the new maps of national interests.

It was a bizarre ideology, exported by the colonial powers so their hold would remain strong even after they had formally given up the colonies. But in those strange days people normally had one of two reactions to most anything that came from their former colonial masters; they either welcomed it, thinking it would bring them progress and happiness, or they became resigned to it thinking it inevitable. However, the ideology of nation-states was exactly opposed to the Islamic idea of one ummah and life was torn between the conflicting concepts. Hajj symbolized the dichotomy. It was the annual reminder that Muslims are one people, as believers from all over the world wore the same two-sheet dress, circumbulated the same Ka'ba, making the same commitment "O Allah I am here". It had also been turned into a reminder of the most important belonging of a pilgrim: his passport. Without that certificate of belonging to a nation-state no one could perform Hajj or even move from one point to another in the sacred land.

The student finally understands the ideological trap that guaranteed the tragedies of Burma and Bosnia and Kosova and Iraq and Afghanistan and ... and... an endless list. But he cannot figure out why did Muslims of the period allow themselves to be so trapped. Did they not remember the Qur'anic declaration, "The Believers are but a Single Brotherhood." [AlHujarat, 49:10]. Did they not remember the Qur'anic command, "Hold fast together the Rope that Allah has extended for you and do not dispute among yourselves." [Aale-Imran, 3:103]. Did they not remember the hadith, "Muslims are one body. If any part of the body is suffering the whole body feels the pain." Did they not know that the devastating idea of nation-states was actually the idea of creating permanent divisions in the ummah? What was going through their minds? Why did they allow themselves to be imprisoned in the cage of that stinking nationalism?

He gives up. History is so full of intrigues!

THE TRUIMVIRATE OF HORROR

BY FAIZEL KHAMKAR

The horrific disaster liberally termed ethnic cleansing taking part in Myanmar in essence can be put down to the role played by three prominent figures in that state. Other role players have simply been side-lined including the United Nations who once more prove that their role is no more than symbolic for the world other than serving the interest of the few who created this morally worthless organization. This same said puppet body has proof from satellite observation as to the horrific truth.

It is also important to examine the alleged reason for the barbaric and inhumane reaction to the alleged reasons. It is alleged that a newly formed resistance group called the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army had attacked and killed either members of the armed forces or the police depending where the source of the information comes from. From the lessons of the recent past questions must arise as to the identity, the source of funding and the source of arming of this so called resistance movement. The Rohingya Muslims have been isolated to such an extent that earning income in order to survive is a nightmarish experience and in light of this, the answers presented by professional and trained liars needs to be thoroughly investigated. In the unlikely event that such a movement exists whether they actually carried out the alleged attacks or not a factual profiling on the movement and the need for such a movement must be interrogated. Let us not forget how the existence of HAMAS came about in comparison to the distorted pictures painted by the one eyed media. Furthermore the roles played by various other anti- Muslim movements such as The Arakan National Party, The United League of Arakan and a host of other groupings had on the formation of a counter group. This independent investigations cannot take place because of ban imposed on any potential eye witnesses.

The triumvirate of horror are (1) Ashin Warathu, (2) Aung San Suu Ki and (3) Htin Kyaw General of the Army as well as the President of the country. Ashin Warathu started the Ma Ba Tha movement known as the 969 movement in the year 2012. The intent behind the formation of this movement was to eradicate all traces of Islam and Muslims from Myanmar. The intensity and violence against the Muslims of Rohingya started to escalate from that time. The extremist and terroristic approach needed an alliance of similar evil intentioned movements and an alliance was formed with both the Bodu Bala Sewa (BBS) of Sri Lanka and the power behind the BJP of India the Rashtiya Swan Sevak Sang (RSS) of India. This information is important in being able to identify Islamicphobes who have the radical terrorist outlook. This network needs to be investigated and the following example will suffice in order to understand the importance of this

investigation. In the year 2012, the same year as the formation of the 969 movement a Buddhist priest by the name of Ven Innamaluwa Sumangla Thera of Sri Lanka planned and initiated the destruction of a Mosque in Dambulla Sri Lanka. This same priest is on record for the following objective: "ensure that Muslims will not have a place to even urinate". "This inhumane leader of the Buddhist has a tremendous amount of influence in Myanmar to the extent that he had influenced the passing of legislation against the Rohingya Muslims and paid a pivotal role in campaigning voters in the last elections to vote for the protection of "race and religion". Furthermore the atrocities committed by Warathu's terrorist was done in the presence of Myanmar's police and military without any hindrance displaying his influence. The movement had adopted the Lion Capital of Ashoka as its emblem. It is this same emblem that is used by India as one of its national symbols. This symbol was adopted in India as a reaffirmation of its ancient commitment to world peace and goodwill. The reality is totally different taking into account the heinous acts of barbarity displayed in Myanmar. This then draws us to the allegations of satanic thinking on the part of Warathu. The Kerberos is a similar emblem representing the dogs of Hades (Hell) as has the underlying understanding of death and darkness and leads one not to disregard the satanic viewpoint.

When Aung San Suu Ki despite the intervention of Warathu came into power following the 2015 elections a power sharing agreement was reached between her and Htin Kyaw. Kyaw as President retained power of the military as well as some key areas of government. It has become obvious that his only interest is Htin Kyaw. Therefore whatever Warathu does is overlooked as long as his self-interest is not effected. On the other hand Aung San Suu Ki has proved herself to be the ultra-betrayer in the mould of Cleopatra with her own position and power the sole concern. She has betrayed her father's legacy, the people of Myanmar who had voted for her, the sector of the international community that bestowed upon her the peace Laurette and even her own convictions for which she served fifteen years in prison.

With this background the Rohingya Muslims find themselves in a desperate position and forming self defence mechanism at the expense of being labelled terrorist is understandable. Therefore Muslim activism within the framework of the law is extremely important.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOCUS

BY FAKIR HASSEN

Geneva, SWITZERLAND - The world has finally woken up to the plight of the Rohingya Muslim community, who have been persecuted in Burma for decades. The deadly security operation in Myanmar's Rakhine state is apparently designed to rid the country of the Muslim Rohingya minority, UN Rights Chief Zeid Ra'ad said as relief efforts were launched worldwide for the hundreds of thousands fleeing to neighbouring Bangladesh, which has also refused to take them in. The UN rights chief said he was appalled that Myanmar has reportedly started laying mines on its border with Bangladesh and that refugees are only allowed to come back home if they provide proof of their nationality, even though most Rohingya are stateless.

Makkah, SAUDI ARABIA - As the Hajj season ended for this year, Indonesia, with the world's largest Muslim population scored several records. It took an Indonesian youth exactly a year to cover on foot the long journey from Central Java province to the holy city of Makkah to perform the Hajj pilgrimage this year. Wearing a T-shirt with "I am on my way to Makkah on foot and putting full trust in God," on his back, Setiawan started off his daring passage from his hometown of Pekalongan regency, in Central Java, on August 28, 2016 to travel a distance of more than 9 000 kilometres. Observing fast for most of his daytime during the journey, Setiawan preferred to travel at night with the assistance of lights and utilize the daytime to rest in mosques, public buildings, houses of local people, or even inside the forests of some countries he passed through. Maria Marghani Mohammed, also from Indonesia, was the oldest Indonesian pilgrim at 104 years old. More than 221,000 undertook Hajj this year, the highest number of pilgrims ever for a single Hajj from a foreign country.

Madinah, SAUDI ARABIA - A group of nine British pilgrims cycled 3 000 km on their way to Madinah in their six-week long journey from London. The group took off from London on July 14 and passed through France, Switzerland, Italy, Greece and Egypt. They had actually planned to come to the Kingdom travelling only on land via Turkey, Syria and Jordan, but due to security concerns in the latter countries they travelled by ship from Greece to Egypt from where they travelled by air to Jeddah. From Jeddah, the group travelled by road to Madinah. The head of the group, Abdul Wahid Don White, said the trip was aimed at conveying a picture of Islam as a religion of peace

and tolerance in the countries they passed through.

Stockholm, SWEDEN - A man who was accused of harassing and abusing three veiled Muslim women on a suburban train in Sweden in 2015, was fined 14,000 kroner (almost R23 000) by a court. The three women were travelling on a commuter train to the Swedish capital of Stockholm when a man walked up to them and took out some bacon, then waved it in front of their faces and demanded that they eat it. After the women changed their seats, clearly disturbed by the man's actions, he reportedly ate the bacon in front of them and shouted: "I hate Muslims." The Attunda District Court ruled that the man's intention was to 'insult' the women on the grounds of their 'ethnicity' and 'religion'. The court also ordered him to pay 5,000 kroner to the women.

Georgia, USA - A dozen mosques across the State of Georgia opened their doors to serve as temporary shelters for Georgia and Florida residents fleeing Hurricane Irma which sowed devastation across the region last week. "Because most Georgia mosques contain expansive, carpeted prayer halls, our houses of worship can easily shelter large numbers of people," said Dr. Khalid Siddiq, a member of Al-Farooq Masjid, the largest mosque in Georgia. "When Hurricane Harvey struck Texas, dozens of Houston mosques served as shelters for residents left stranded or homeless by the disaster. Georgia mosques stand ready to provide the same service to our neighbours of all faiths and backgrounds," said Hamid Qureshi, executive director of the Atlanta chapter of the Islamic Circle of North America, one of the nation's largest Muslim charities.

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DATE	EVENTS 1439
3 & 4 November	Meelaad-un-Nabi (Sal lal laa Hu Alay Hi Wa Sallam) & Urs Shareef Standerton
26 November	Meelaad-un-Nabi (Sal lal laa Hu Alay Hi Wa Sallam) Al Kareem Islamic Centre Lenasia
23-26 November	Hazrat Badsha Peer (R.A.) Urs Shareef Overport Secondary School Grounds Durban
30 Nov 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal	Eve Meelaad-un-Nabi (Sal lal laa Hu Alay Hi Wa Sallam) "Big Night" Subject to sighting of the New Moon
1/2/3 December	Meelaad-un-Nabi (Sal lal laa Hu Alay Hi Wa Sallam) Saaberie Chishty & Jamia Razvia Masjid Lenasia
1 & 2 December	Darul Uloom Pretoria Graduation Jalsa
2 December	Meelaad-un-Nabi (Sal lal laa Hu Alay Hi Wa Sallam) Rustenburg Meelaad Group
3 December	Meelaad-un-Nabi (Sal lal laa Hu Alay Hi Wa Sallam) Al Hudaar Foundation Lenasia
29 December	Eve Giyaarwee Shareef-Subject to sighting of the New Moon
27 & 28 January	Meelaad-un-Nabi (Sal lal laa Hu Alay Hi Wa Sallam) Quadriya Masjid Roshnee
26 - 28 January	Meelaad-un-Nabi (Sal lal laa Hu Alay Hi Wa Sallam) Laudium Moulood Group
27 & 28 January	Meelaad-un-Nabi (Sal lal laa Hu Alay Hi Wa Sallam) Mafikeng
27 January	Meelaad-un-Nabi (Sal lal laa Hu Alay Hi Wa Sallam) Piet Retief Civic Centre
3 & 4 February	Meelaad-un-Nabi (Sal lal laa Hu Alay Hi Wa Sallam) Sultan Bahu Centre Johannesburg
3 February	Meelaad-un-Nabi (Sal lal laa Hu Alay Hi Wa Sallam) Uwais Qarni Islamic Centre Robertsham JHB
17 & 18 February	Meelaad-un-Nabi (Sal lal laa Hu Alay Hi Wa Sallam) Masjid Shaikh Abdul Qadir Jilani Ext13 Lenasia
24 March	Hazrat Khawaja Gharib Nawaaz(R.A.)UrsShareef Buzme Chishtiyya Laudium
30 March	Meelaad-un-Nabi (Sal lal laa Hu Alay Hi Wa Sallam)& Jalsa Saaberie Chishty Dawah Centre Orange Farm
31 March	Hazrat Khaak Saar Ali Shah (R.A.) Urs Shareef Baitun Noor Centre Lenasia
5 & 6 April	Saaberie Chishty 51st Annual Urs Shareef Gulistan-e-Sabri Chishty- Sayed Bros Res. Lenasia
13 April	Eve Shabe Meraaj (Subject To Sighting Of The New Moon)
14 April	Hazrat Maqsood Ali Shah (R.A.) Urs Shareef Baitun Noor Centre Lenasia
1 May	Eve Shabe Baraat (Subject To Sighting Of The New Moon)
5 & 6 May	Hazrat Khalid Shah Bawa (R.A.) Urs Shareef Benoni
15 June	Eid-ul-Fitr (Subject To Sighting Of The New Moon)
23 June	Hazrat Iqbal Shah Dada (R.A.) Urs Shareef Saaberie Chishty Hall Lenasia
7 July	Hazrat Mehboob Ali Shah(R.A.)Urs Shareef Saaberie Chishty Hall Lenasia
14 July	Hazrat Ghulaam Jilani Baba (R.A) Urs Shareef Saaberie Chishty Hall Lenasia
21 July	Hazrat Baba Kassim Shah Faridi (R.A.) Urs Shareef Lenasia
22 Aug	Eid-ul-Adha (Subject To Sighting Of The New Moon)
10 - 20 Sep	1st - 10 Muharram (Nightly Lectures After Esha) Saaberie Chishty & Jamia Razvia Masjid Lenasia
22 Sep.	Hazrat Baba Fareed (R.A.) Urs Shareef Saaberie Chishty Hall Lenasia
23 Sep.	Yaade Shahid-e-Karbala Baitun Noor Centre Lenasia
24 & 25 November	Darul Uloom Pretoria Graduation Jalsa
1/2 Dec	Saaberie Chishty Meelad & Madressa Jalsa

AL KAUSAR 21 YEARS OLD

Through the grace of Almighty Allah This humble publication is entering its twenty first year of publication and Insha-Allah with the help, support, and duas of the readers and other well-wishes it is hoped that Al Kausar should be around for a long time in the future.

Please continue to assist us with your advertising inserts as well as subscriptions so that we may continue with this free service to our community.

Abu Umamah (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: I heard the Messenger of Allah sal-Allahu 'alayhi wa sallam) saying, "Read the Qur'an, for it will come as an intercessor for its reciters on the Day of Resurrection." *Muslim*

The Holy Prophet ? said, Have mercy on others & you will be showered with mercy. Adopt forgiveness, so that Almighty Allah (ﷻ) will forgive you. *Musnad Ahmad.*

The Holy Prophet ? said, If a person forgives someone's mistake then Allah increases his honour & respect. *Muslim Shareef.*

The Holy Prophet ? said, The person who leaves telling lies, & it is futile (i.e. lies is something that one should leave), then a house will be erected for him on the perimeters of Jannat & whosoever abstains from disputing (quarrelling) even though he is on the right, then a house will be erected for him in the middle of Jannat & whosoever adorned himself with good character, then for him, a house will be erected in the elevated level of Jannat.