

# 'Al Kafi Sa'



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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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# HAZRAT ABDUR RAHMAN IBN ABI BAKR

Abdur-Rahman was the son of As-Siddiq. Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiq (رضي الله عنه) was the first revert to Islam & his status is incomparable to any other Muslim. He had the honour of sharing a close friendship with the Beloved of ALLAH and was His (ﷺ)'s companion in the cave. Hazrat Abu Bakr's son however was at the opposite end of the spectrum. Abdur-Rahman was a staunch pagan who fervently worshipped the idols of the Quraish.

He was in the forefront of every battle against the Muslims. Before any battle there was usually a traditional duelling round involving single combat. On one occasion Abdur-Rahman came to the fore and provocatively challenged the Muslims asking whom they had worthy of fighting him. Abu Bakr Siddiq (رضي الله عنه) responded to the challenge. The Prophet (ﷺ) however held him back from doing so.

Abdur-Rahman had great conviction in paganism. His father's conversion to Islam did not even tempt him the least. Even though he held his father in great respect and recognised his rationality, Abdur-Rahman remained unchanged. Fate had however decided that Abdur-Rahman would come to terms with the truth. The darkness was removed from his eyes and replaced with the light of guidance. Soon everywhere he looked, he could see ALLAH. This awakening had encapsulated his heart and Abd-ar-Rahman was ready to submit to Islam.

He rushed off to the Prophet (ﷺ) to take the oath of allegiance. Abu Bakr (رضي الله عنه) was overwhelmed with joy. Abdur-Rahman was a true polytheist but he had now become a true Muslim. His conviction was now rooted in Islam and his loyalty and determination in striving in ALLAH's (ﷻ) cause were evidence of this.

During the whole period of the Prophet (ﷺ) and the era of Caliphs who succeeded Him (رضي الله عنه), Abdur-Rahman never missed a battle nor refrained from taking part in any Jihaad. One of his notable contributions was in the Battle of Al-Yamaamah where his bravery helped defeat Musailamah's army. Abdur-Rahman slayed Muhkam Ibn At-Tufail who

was the main guard of the castle in which Musailamah's army took refuge. Once Muhkam was killed, the others retreated. This allowed the Muslims to advance into the castle.

Abdur-Rahman would not allow himself to be deterred from his loyalty to Islam. He remained firm on his principles even under dire circumstances. When Muaawiyah had decided to force the pledge of Yaziid by sword, Abd-ar-Rahman still preserved his convictions. An oath of allegiance to Yaziid was publicly read in the Mosque in Madinah so that all the Muslims felt pressurized to comply. The mosque became silent and depression filled the air. Abdur-Rahman however bravely broke the silence and loudly declared his opposition. He stated: "By ALLAH, its not the welfare of Muhammed'd (ﷺ) nation that you are seeking. On the contrary, you want to turn it into a Heraclian rule. When Heraclius dies another follows." A group of Muslims immediately responded in support of him viz. Al-Husain Ibn Aliy, Abd-Allah ibn Az-Zubair and Abd-Allah Ibn Umar. They were however later silenced by Muaawiyah. Only Abdur-Rahman continued to loudly resist.

Hazrat Ameer Muaawiyah (رضي الله عنه) even sent him one hundred thousand dirhams to change his mind. He flung the money into the face of the messenger and declared: "Go back to him

## THE WOLVES WITHIN ME

An old Grandfather, whose grandson came to him with anger at a schoolmate who had done him an injustice, said, "Let me tell you a story. I too, at times, have felt a great 'hate' for those that have taken so much, with no sorrow for what they do. But hate wears you down, and does not hurt your enemy. It is like taking poison and wishing your enemy would die. I have struggled with these feelings many times."

He continued, "It is as if there are **two wolves** inside me; one is good and does no harm. He lives in harmony with all around him and does not take offense when no offense was intended. He will only fight when it is right to do so, and in the right way."

"But the other wolf, ah! He is full of anger. The littlest thing will set him into a fit of temper. He fights everyone, all the time, for no reason. He cannot think because his anger and hate are so great. It is hard to **live with these two wolves inside me**, for both of them try to dominate my soul."

The boy looked intently into his Grandfather's eye and asked, "Which one wins, Grandfather?"

The Grandfather solemnly said, "**The one I feed.**"

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## IMAAM GHAZALI

Abu Hamid Muhammad ibn Muhammad al-Ghazali is one of the greatest Islamic Jurists, theologians and mystical thinkers. He learned various branches of traditional Islamic religious sciences in his home town of Tus, Gurgan and Nishapur in the northern part of Iran. He was also involved in Sufi practices from an early age. Being recognized by Nizam al-Mulk, the vizir of the Seljuq sultans, he was appointed head of the Nizamiyyah College at Baghdad in AH 484/AD 1091. As the intellectual head of the Islamic community, he was busy lecturing on Islamic jurisprudence at the College, and also refuting heresies and responding to questions from all segments of the community. Four years later, however, al-Ghazali fell into a serious spiritual crisis and finally left Baghdad, renouncing his career and the world after wandering in Syria and Palestine for about two years and finishing the pilgrimage to Mecca, he returned to Tus, where he was engaged in writing, Sufi practices and teaching his disciples until his death. In the meantime he resumed teaching for a few years at the Nizamiyyah College in Nishapur

Al-Ghazali explained in his autobiography why he renounced his brilliant career and turned to Sufism. It was, he says, due to his realization that there was no way to certain knowledge or the conviction of revelatory truth except through Sufism. (This means that the traditional form of Islamic faith was in a very critical condition at the time.) This realization is possibly related to his criticism of Islamic philosophy. In fact, his refutation of philosophy is not a mere criticism from a certain (orthodox) theological viewpoint. First of all, his attitude towards philosophy was ambivalent; it was both an object and criticism and an object of learning (for example, logic and the natural sciences). He mastered philosophy and then criticized it in order to Islamicize it. The importance of his criticism lies in his philosophical demonstration that the philosophers' metaphysical arguments cannot stand the test of reason. However, he was also forced to admit that the certainty, of revelatory truth, for which he was so desperately searching, cannot be obtained by reason. It was only later that he finally attained to that truth in the ecstatic state (fana') of the Sufi. Through his own religious experience, he worked to revive the faith of Islam by reconstructing the religious sciences upon the basis of Sufism, and to give a theoretical foundation to the latter under the influence of philosophy. Thus Sufism came to be generally recognized in the Islamic community. Though Islamic philosophy did not long survive al-Ghazali's criticism, he contributed greatly to the subsequent philosophization of Islamic theology and Sufism.

## WHY WOMEN CRY....

*A little boy asked his mother, "Why are you crying?"*

*Because I need to," she said.*

*"I don't understand," he said.*

*His Mom just hugged him and said, "And you never will."*

*Later the little boy asked his father, "Why does mother seem to cry for no reason?"*

*"All women cry for no reason," his dad answered carelessly.*

*The little boy, still wondering why women cry, finally asked the old wise shaikh. "He surely knows the answer", he thought.*

*"Ya Shaikh! Why do women cry so easily?"*

*He answered: "When Allah made the woman she had to be made so special. He made her shoulders strong enough to carry the weight of the world, yet gentle enough to give comfort. He gave her an inner strength to endure childbirth and the rejection that comes from her children. He gave her a hardness that allows her to keep going when everyone else gives up, and take care of her family through sickness and fatigue without complaining. He gave her the sensitivity to love her children under any and all circumstances, even when her child hurts her very badly. He gave her strength to carry her husband through his faults and fashioned her from his rib to protect his heart. He gave her wisdom to know that a good husband never hurts his wife, but sometimes tests her strengths and her resolve to stand beside him unfalteringly. And lastly, He gave her a tear. This is hers and only hers exclusively to use whenever she needs it. She needs no reason, no explanation, its hers."*

*"You see my son, the beauty of a woman is not in the clothes she wears, the beauty of her face, or the way she combs her hair. The beauty of a woman must be seen in her eyes, because that is the doorway to her heart - the place where love resides."*

*The little boy got the answer and never asked the question again.*

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# BENEFITS OF WUDHU

Rasulullah ﷺ has said: “When a Muslim, or a believer, washes his face (in the course of Wudhu), every sin which he committed with his eyes, will be washed away from his face with water, or with the last drop of water; when he washes his hands, every sin which is committed by his hands will be effaced from his hands with the water, or with the last drop of water; and when he washes his feet, every sin his feet committed will be washed away with the water, or with the last drop of water; until he finally emerges cleansed of all his sins.” [Muslim]

(Note the similarities to teachings of reflexology)

## ACTION

## BENEFIT

Washing hands in between fingers and fingertips and especially between thumb and pointer.	Revives nervous system and relieves headache.
Mouth: when water touches the tongue on both sides. The back of your tongue.	Revives your liver and kidneys which operates in a pair. Your pancreas gets revived and most importantly we use both sides of the tongue to pronounce the Dhal sound of the Arabic alphabet. This is the most difficult letter to pronounce so by rinsing the mouth in wudhu it will improve your ability to pronounce this letter - Insha Allah.
The rinsing of the nose.	Moves the dust from the hair particles in the nostril Improves our ability to produce the nasal sounds as required in tajweed.
The washing of the face	The face has lots of muscles and the washing of the face revives the nervous system especially under the eyes. So take care to rub under the eyes.
Washing of the arms	Above your elbows is another part of the nervous system that is revived so take care to wash above the elbows
Washing of the forehead	Our lower brain which is responsible for our thinking capacity is located in the forehead. This is the part of the brain where choices are made. So when Allah (ﷻ) refers in the Quraan “That we will be dragged by our forelocks on the day of Qiyaamah”, it will be due to what we allowed our lower brain to do- So we must ask Allah (ﷻ) continuously to stimulate our lower brain to make us better decision makers that will benefit us in Deen, Dunya and Aaghira Insha Allah.
Washing of the ears	Our outer rim of the ear-lobe has a repeat of our entire nervous system and is shaped like a foetus in the womb. So when you rub the ear-lobe you are reviving the entire nervous system.
Washing the feet	Between the toes and above the ankle another bunch of nerves that gets revived and the duaah should be that “our feet should carry us to beneficial places” Insha Allah . The water will also form a silicone on the day of Qiyaama to assist in carrying you across the Pul Siraat.



# HAZRAT ABU BAKR "AS SIDDIQUE" ﷺ

THE SUCCESSOR OF THE PROPHET ﷺ

The first Hajj under Islam was in the ninth year of Hijra. The Prophet ﷺ was too busy at Madinah to lead the Hajj, so he sent Abu Bakr ﷺ as his agent, he was to lead the Hajj in place of the Prophet ﷺ.

The Prophet ﷺ led the prayers himself ever since he arrived to Madinah. During his last illness, the Prophet ﷺ could no longer lead the prayers, he was too weak to go to the mosque, he therefore had to choose someone to fill such high position after him. Abu Bakr ﷺ was also the one who was honored to be chosen by the Prophet for such a task.

Thus in the lifetime of the Prophet ﷺ, Abu Bakr ﷺ came to fill the highest position under Islam (leading prayers). While one day Abu Bakr ﷺ was away Omar ﷺ was appointed by the Companions to lead the prayers in his absence. Realizing the change of voice, the Prophet ﷺ said "This is not Abu Bakr's voice, no one but he should lead prayers, he is the fittest person for this position".

When the news of the Prophet's passing on came out, many Muslims were confused and stunned. Omar ﷺ himself was so overcome with emotions that he drew his sword and declared "If anyone says that the Messenger of Allah is dead, I will cut off his head".

Muslims stayed in such state until Abu Bakr ﷺ arrived and gave his famous address: "O People! If anyone among you worshiped Muhammad ﷺ, let him know that Muhammad ﷺ is dead. But those who worshiped Allah, let them know that He lives and will never die. Let all of us recall the words of the Qur'an. It says: "Muhammad ﷺ is a Messenger of Allah, there have been Messengers before him. What then, will you turn back from Islam if he dies or is killed?" Suddenly Abu Bakr's ﷺ words started to sink in, and in no time confusion was gone.

Having shrugged off the shocking news of the Prophet's ﷺ death, Muslims realized that they need someone to fill the position of leadership amongst them.

The two main groups amongst Muslims were Muhajirun (refugees from Mecca), and Ansar (the people of Madinah). The Ansar gathered at the Thaqifa Bani Saida their meeting place. Saad bin Abada ﷺ the Ansar leader suggested that the Caliph should be from amongst them. Although many refused saying that the Muhajirun in right have a better claim to Khilafah. When the news reached Abu Bakr ﷺ, he quickly went to their gathering, fearing that confusion might spread once again, and said "Both Muhajirun and Ansar have done great service to Islam. But the former were the first to accept Islam, they were always very close to the Messenger of Allah. So, O Ansar, let the Caliph be from amongst them". After a short discussion, the Ansar agreed that they should choose the Caliph from amongst the Muhajirun, being from the tribe of Quraish and being the first to accept Islam.

Abu Bakr ﷺ then asked people to choose between Omar bin Al-Khattab ﷺ and Abu Ubaida Ibn A-Jarrah ﷺ. Hearing this, both men jumped to their feet and exclaimed "O Siddiq, how can that be? How can anyone else fill this position as long as you are among us? You are the top man amongst the Muhajirun. You were the Companion of the Prophet ﷺ in the Thawr cave. You led prayers in his place, during his last illness. Prayer is the foremost thing in Islam. With all these qualifications you are the fittest person to be the successor of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. Hold out your hand that we may pledge loyalty to you".

But Abu Bakr ﷺ did not stretch out his hand. Omar ﷺ saw that the delay might lead to the reopening of the disagreements so he himself took Abu Bakr's ﷺ hand out and pledged loyalty to him. Others followed by example, and Abu Bakr ﷺ became the first Caliph by general consent of the Muslims.

After his election as the Caliph, Abu Bakr ﷺ addressed the Muslims with these words:

"O People! I have been chosen by you as your leader, although I am no better than any of you. If I do any wrong, set me right. Listen, truth is honesty and untruth is dishonesty. The weak among you are the powerful in my eyes, as long as I do not give them their dues. The powerful among you are weak in my eyes, as long as I do not take away from them what is due to others.

"Listen carefully, if people give up striving for the Cause of Almighty Allah, He will send down disgrace upon them. If people become evil-doers, Almighty Allah will send down calamities upon them.

"Obey me as long as I obey Allah and His Rasul ﷺ. If I disobey Allah and His Rasul ﷺ, you are free to disobey me."

Such was the quality of the humble and generous Companion who believed the Prophet ﷺ in everything to the extent that he was called As-Siddiq, by the Prophet ﷺ. His great personality and service to Islam and Muslims earned him the love and respect of all Muslims, so that he was chosen as the first Caliph after the Prophet ﷺ by all Muslims.



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## SHAMS-UL-ARD (SUN OF THE EARTH)

On the 13th of Zil Haj 658 AH, Hazrath Shamsuddin Turk Pani Patti arrived at the court of Hazrath Baba Fareeduddin Ganj Shakar Saheb in Paak Pattan, in order to become a disciple. After the initiation of bai'th (pledge of discipleship), he was told by Hazrath Baba Saheb that he will receive all the bounties of Uloom Irfaani (spiritual knowledge from another murshid).

At that time Hazrath Baba Saheb had learnt of Hazrath Saabir Paak being in the state of "Istighraaq" (engrossed in ibadat) whilst holding the branch of the goolar tree (wild fig tree) in a standing position for the period of twelve years. On hearing this news Hazrath Baba Saheb announced, "Is there anyone who can make my Saabir sit". Hazrath Shamsuddin Turk Pani Patti responded to Hazrath Baba Saheb's call and left for Kalyar.

When he reached Kalyar he saw Hazrath Saabir Paak holding the branch of the fig tree with his left hand and his right palm folded in the form of a fist whilst his gaze was towards the sky, standing in deep meditation. Hazrath Shamsuddin Turk Paani Patti did not have the courage to go near Hazrath Saabir Paak. Through the mediation of Aleemullah Abdaal it was learnt from Jamaluddin Abdaal that Hazrath Shamsuddin Turk Paani Paati will reach Hazrath Saabir Paak in twenty three days.

Subsequently after twenty three days, Hazrath Saabir Paak regained consciousness and spoke out, "Are you sent here by Hazrath Baba Saheb?" and Hazrath Shamsuddin Turk Paani Patti replied, "Your honour knows everything better than this humble soul". Then Hazrath Saabir Paak exclaimed, "*The sun of Allah is in the sky and this faqeer's sun is on the earth*". Hence Hazrath Shamsuddin Turk Paani Patti earned the title of "Shamsul Ard" (sun of the earth). Hazrath Saabir Paak ordered him to recite the Quran.

Hazrath Shamsuddin Turk Paani Patti was a Hafiz ul Quran. Hazrath Shamsuddin Turk Paani Patti recited the Holy Quran whilst standing. He recited the beautiful verses of the Holy Quran for quite a lengthy period and stopped. Hazrath Saabir Paak was

enjoying the recitation and when Hazrath Shamsuddin Turk Paani Patti stopped, he enquired as to why he stopped. Hazrath Shamsuddin Turk Paani Patti answered saying to Hazrath Saabir Paak that he was finding it difficult to stand and recite the glorious Quran.

He was granted permission to sit and recite, but Hazrath Shamsuddin Turk Paani Patti explained that, "It will be disrespectful and unethical for me to sit whilst your honour is standing". Hazrath agreed to sit and listen to the recitation of the Holy Quran. After the recitation of the Quran was complete Hazrath Shamsuddin Turk Paani Paati complained of hunger. He was ordered to pluck wild fig, boil and eat it. He complied to the order, but in return Hazrath Shamsuddin Turk Paani Paati said to Hazrath Saabir Paak that it will be disrespectful again if I eat and your honour does not eat. Hazrath ate a few boiled wild fig together with Hazrath Paani Paati.

### A PIOUS UNION PRODUCES PIOUS CHILDREN

Mubarak used to maintain the orchards of his master. On one occasion, his master requested him to bring a sweet pomegranate. Upon tasting it, he found it to be bitter. He then instructed Mubarak for a second and third time, but each time the fruit turned out to be bitter.

This infuriated the master who scolded Mubarak saying, "Can you not differentiate between a sweet and bitter pomegranate?"

Mubarak replied, "No!"

"Why?" asked the master.

Mubarak replied, "I have never eaten a single fruit from this orchard ever since I have been in your employ."

The master asked, "Why have you not eaten anything?"

Mubarak replied, "You have not granted me the permission to do so."

The master realised the piety and goodness of his servant and asked Mubarak to marry his daughter. Mubarak agreed and the union was blessed with a son known as Abdullah ibn Mubarak, who later became a distinguished scholar and saint of his time.

**Moral:** Righteous children are normally born to righteous parents.



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# WEST HAS INTERVENED WITH HATRED IN MUSLIM LAND

BY IBRAHIM VAWDA

*My response to Terence Grant "Opposing Trump does not mean accepting Islam".*

Donald Trump's banning of Muslims from entering his country is not about Islam. It never was. Islam should not be the subject of discussion in the first place. We should be addressing the real roots of Trump's executive orders. To conflate politics with religion is convenient and self-validating.

When Islam was introduced to Arabia many centuries ago, it was, in a sense a revolutionary religion. It was a real challenge to classism in society, to inequality in all of its forms, and more importantly, to capitalism and its embedded insatiability, greed and callousness.

Once the Cold War had triumphantly ended with an inflated sense of political validation, Muslim lands became the new playground for ideas about dominion and military hardware. Since then, it has been an all-out war, either instigated by or involving various western powers. It was a protracted, multi-dimensional war: a destructive war on the ground, an economic war, free market exploitation, cultural invasion, topped with a massive propaganda war targeting the Muslim world's leading religion: Islam.

It was also strategic: hating Islam and all Muslims is a very flexible tool. It made military intervention and economic sanctions possible anywhere where the West has political and economic interests. Hating Islam became a unifying rally-cry from advocates of sanctions to anti-immigrant neo-Nazi groups in Germany, and everywhere else. Now in Donald Trump's America.

In the latter half of the last century, religious fundamentalism began making inroads into the thinking patterns of the masses. In India, right wing Hindu nationalists were pushing through the doctrine of Hindutva (Hinduization of society), in the US and Europe, right wing Christian nationalism was beginning to influence politics. The same is true of Jewish ultranationalists and fundamentalist organisations in occupied Palestine.

The entry of religion into politics is not unique to Muslim countries only. The failure of imperialism, liberalism, neo-conservatism and the decline of secular nationalism have pushed the masses to seek other alternatives out of their cycle

of poverty and violence. Basic questions raised include the distribution of wealth, who rules their lands and in whose interests.

Muslims do not give a damn about western style liberties, lifestyle or freedoms. What raises anti-US sentiments is the US and Western governments interventionist foreign policies in the Muslim world. Foremost among these is their support for Muslim tyrannies, US military presence in Muslim lands and US unqualified support for racism as practiced in occupied Palestine. Muslims are driven less by hatred for the west than the west's hatred for Islam and Muslims.



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# FOODS THAT AID CONCENTRATION IN KIDS

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## The Best Breakfasts

Breakfast is critical for school-age kids. Research has shown that breakfast-eaters do better academically and have fewer behavior problems than breakfast-skippers

But high-sugar foods set kids up for a midmorning energy crash—right when they're likely to be in the middle of the more demanding classes, like math or reading. Ideal breakfasts offer protein and complex carbs, which are digested more slowly.

**Eggs** Choline (a vitamin-like substance that is plentiful in eggs, but also found in nuts) is vital for the creation of memory stem cells, formed deep within our brains. The more cells we have, the better our memories.

**Oatmeal** Tufts University and Quaker Oats gave kids between ages 9 and 11 a choice of oatmeal, cold cereal, or no breakfast at all, and then tested their memory at school over several weeks. The oatmeal-eaters performed significantly better on spatial-memory tasks (children were tested on map skills). Researchers believe it is because oatmeal—a whole grain that is high in fiber—digests slowly, providing kids with a steady stream of energy, as well as giving them protein.

*Turn up the appeal* If you're serving old-fashioned slow-cook oatmeal, sprinkle in raisins, dried apricots, or cranberries to add a little zip; walnuts add crunch. Allow kids to sweeten it themselves with a little brown sugar or maple syrup. When serving packaged varieties, don't let them add sugar (it's got enough already) and pick a product that contains 130 calories or less. Varieties such as "maple and brown sugar" can contain up to 190 calories largely due to added sugar.

**Strawberries and blueberries** These two juicy favorites are ultrahigh in antioxidants. While the studies are preliminary, researchers are hopeful that fruits and vegetables may play an important role in preventing the long-term effects of oxidative stress on brain function.

## Leveraging Lunch

**Sandwiches on whole wheat** Not only are whole wheat breads rich in fiber, but the enriched flour used by most commercial bakers is rich in folate, a B vitamin that is used to manufacture memory cells in the brain.

Whole grains are a good source of other B vitamins that have also been shown to improve alertness. Or pack "mini-sandwiches" made on whole wheat

crackers or whole wheat tortillas, instead.

**Milk** Fat-free milk is well known as a great source of protein, vitamin D, and phosphorus. But calcium also affects how our bodies regulate energy.

*Turn up the appeal* To make milk tempting, just add chocolate or strawberry syrup: Experts say there is very little caffeine in chocolate milk, and it contains about the same amount of sugar found in fruit juices..

**Itty-bitty fruit** While most fruits are not brain foods, per se, they do offer children a distinct learning advantage. That's because constipation is a common problem. As a result, kids often drag through their school day feeling sluggish, lethargic, and in more severe cases, anxious and distracted.

**Fruit** (along with exercise and plenty of water) is the best way to keep kids regular, and hence ready to learn. But cut up fruit first, and send it to school in plastic containers.

## After-School Rechargers


The school day may be over, but kids can't afford "brain drain" now. To re-charge them for their after-school activities and homework, encourage them to drink water and snack on cereal. Here's why.

**Water** Most parents would be amazed at how little water kids take in at school.

Dehydration, even a very mild case, makes kids listless, lethargic, and irritable—not exactly the best frame of mind for memorizing the Bill of Rights. Too little water creates false hunger in children, so they make poor food choices." Offer water at every meal, especially after an active day.

## Superfoods For Supper

Rushed as dinner can be for most families, it's also critical for "smart" eating. It's usually the only meal where children get to see adults eating—and enjoying—a variety of different brain foods. Protein rich foods should be eaten for supper with vegetables.



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## YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

BY MOULANA SHAH FAISAL KHAN QADRI MISBAHI



Q1) Is there any case in which it is permissible to speak a lie?

A1) It is permissible to lie in three situations. In other words, there is no sin in doing so. The first situation is in war, since in this situation it is to deceive your opponent (enemy) and this is permissible. Similarly if a tyrant is being intent, on being oppressive, then it is permissible to lie to protect one's self from his tyranny. The second situation is when there is a dispute between two Muslims and one intends to bring peace between them. For example, if you say to one that the other regards you as being a good person and he praises you or to say that he has conveyed Salaam to you, and then to say similar words to the other person as well, so that the animosity between the two becomes less, and peace prevails between them. The third situation is to mention something to please one's wife which is contrary to the actual situation. [Alamgiri] [Bahaar-e-Shariat Vol 16]

Q2) What is Gheebat (backbiting)?

A2) Gheebat means to mention or disclose a hidden weakness of someone (which he does not prefer to disclose before others) with the intention of vilifying him. And if this thing (trait or quality) is not really present in him then it is not Gheebat (backbiting), but it is regarded as Behtaan. It is mentioned in the Holy Quraan as follows, "Do not backbite regarding one another amongst you, would anyone of you like that he should eat the flesh of his dead brother? You regard this as detestable." [Surah 49 Verse 12]

Q3) What intention should one make when conveying Salaam?

A3) When conveying Salaam, the intention should be to safeguard the dignity, honour, wealth and all other belongings of a person to whom you are conveying

Salaam, (i.e. by conveying Salaam to him you are safeguarding him from any harassment by you). To hinder him in any with regards to these things are Haraam.

Q4) when should one cut his nails?

A4) It is Mustahab to trim the nails on a Friday, but if the nails have grown too long, then do not wait for Friday, as it is not good for the nails to be too long, since keeping long nails causes shortage in sustenance. It has been mentioned in one Da'eef Hadith that Huzoor SAW used to trim his moustache and cut his nails before going for Jummah. It is mentioned in another Hadith that Allah Ta'aala will protect the one who trims his nails on a Friday from all calamities until the following Friday and for three more days (i.e. ten days).

May Allah Ta'aala grant us the Taufeeq to follow the Sunnah of our Beloved and Blessed Prophet SAW.

The Messenger(sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) of Allah said: "Whoever relieves a believer of distress in this world, Allah will relieve him of some of the distress of the Day of Resurrection. Whoever makes things easy for those who are in difficulty, Allah will make things easy for him in this world and in the next. Whoever conceals (the faults of) a Muslim in this world, Allah will conceal him (his faults) in this world and in the Hereafter. Allah will help the slave so long as the slave helps his brother." [Mishkaat al-Masaabeeh, 1/71, hadith no. 204.]

73KALIMAH

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HALAAL

# ARE YOU A MUSLIM TODAY?

Assalaamu alaikum

What makes you a Muslim? Is it your name? Or, is it the way you dress? Is it because you have Islamic frames hanging around your home? What is it?

For many of us, this is sufficient qualification to be classified as a Muslim. I do not agree. You have at your disposal enough literature to guide you and many Aalims that point out to you right from wrong yet, you don't PRACTISE what you know.

Why is it that even though you know that gossiping is wrong and has been likened to the eating of a dead person's flesh, many of us still engages in this filthy habit? For some of us, it is a favourite pastime. We frequently succumb to Shaytaan's whispering, even though it may land us in trouble and even go as far as tarnishing a person's reputation. The more juicier the story, the better.

What about telling lies! How many times have you cheated? Or, said a lie to get out of a situation? It may not have harmed any one but, what habit are you cultivating and developing? If you get away with it once, you are sure to repeat it and, use it time and again to save yourself.

We all know that we should be listening to the Adhaan when the call is made. Yet, we still continue with our conversations. Many do not even have the time to read their du'aa after Adhaan.

What about entering the toilet, do you read your du'aa and enter with your left foot? Do you leave the toilet with your right foot and read your du'aa?

Do you have the time to greet a person with "Assalaamu alaikum", or have you fully accepted "Salaam" as a greeting? Do you know the merits of greeting?

What about your dressing? Do you wear the Hijaab or, is it too old-fashioned? Do your clothes reveal your shape and skin? Have you become so accustomed to this manner of dressing that you cannot change it? What's stopping you?

Many of the things I have made mention of, have become the accepted norm in society. Yet, we all know that these acts are not permissible. Are you so weak that you cannot change or break out of them? Are you so scared of public scorn and humiliation that the anger of Allah does not scare you? Muslims know that Allah is all-seeing and all-hearing; you cannot hide anything from Him, yet, that is not enough to scare you!

When are you going to put into PRACTISE what you know? When are you going to be a MUSLIM? Tomorrow? When you are 21 or, 30 or, 55?

How can you be certain that you will get there? How can you be certain that you will even see tomorrow? Your time on this earth is limited. It is only the Hereafter that stretches beyond time. And here you are fooling yourself that you will have enough time. Enough time to make amends for all the hurt you caused; enough time to perform all the namaaz that you have missed .....

The time is NOW!!! Be a Muslim in the true sense of the word. Live everyday as if it's your last, do everything according to Islamic principles, it will become a habit.

ACT, THINK AND LIVE THE PRINCIPLES OF ISLAM .... TOMORROW MAY NOT COME. ...

All the best from Yasmin Omar

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# WORLD WAR THREE

BY FAIZEL KHAMKAR

One of the respected political commentators has recently written that Donald Trump has policies which would instigate the next world war. It goes without saying that major wars were started by bigots who wielded power. This reality is normally camouflaged by placing the door on religion. In order to determine if the assumption of the third world war is a reality we need to analyse certain factors. If we look at some of the events prior to the other world wars and analyse it critically fingers will be pointed and labels of conspiracy theorist will abound. An example is: How would a country with such astute leadership as Japan act so irrationally to attack Pearl Harbour without provocation?

One of the salient features in prior wars was the "spoils war. In both world wars the possibility of losing control of resources the first through a process of nationalization and the second through the process of independence both these processes had created a certain amount of uncertainty and needed to be controlled in terms of the right to these resources within a certain framework was achieved through the world wars where the "spoils of war" were allocated. Presently the resources are reasonably protected and where there is a fear of loss of control over these resources which does not belong to the war mongers then regional war is instigated. This appears to be the more favoured approach as it protects the national soil of the war mongers. Atypical case is the Syrian crisis. This method is not fool proof and the development of a powerful axis such as Russia, Iran and Syria was not envisaged who are also interested in sharing the spoils of war.

A global stagnant and depressive economy which has no hope of recovery was normally stimulated by wars. The current situation is an ideal background for the igniting of war. Since the economic meltdown in 2008 the global market has not recovered despite the massive hype from some quarters that recovery is on the way. A strong indicator is the ever widening gap between the haves and the have's not. The negation of this factor is that the global meltdown forced the additional printing of paper money. Excess money in the system or the converse excess shortage of money

will lead to a breakdown in the economic system. This additional printing of money could have continued if this was the solution. This was not done and it therefore reflects that the saturation point is about to be breached if more paper money is printed. The current economic model is further complicated by the introduction of the Yuan in the international currency basket by the IMF. The complete dominance of the dollar is now being challenged and without a strong standard on which to fall back will bring in a sense of reluctance to the war mongers. The introduction of the Yuan would also complicate the possible distribution of the spoils of war in a disadvantageous manner.

A common international threat must be present or created in order to be able to mobilise the masses. The current global bogeyman are the Muslims, however this ploy cannot be successfully used as the diasporas of Muslims throughout the world including in the war mongering nation states makes specific targets very difficult. Nazi Germany and her allies were easy to target as these were nation states. No such strategy exists except for Iran. The propagation machinery against Saudi Arabia has started but not to the extent that it can be used in the foreseeable future. The advent of social media has also created a stumbling block for the propagators of war as social media easily makes available alternate viewpoints. The much needed mobilisation of the masses would require a new methodology.

A strong nation both economically and militarily needs to lead such a war. Currently no such nation exists and this would compromise any war effort. The equalisation of the strengths of nations would require strong allies, however with the current deep suspicions between the power mongering states this may not be easily realisable. The war mongers by nature are cowards and would only embark on war where they have assessed that the opposition has been severely weakened. This is not the scene at the moment. The most reasonable prediction is that conflicts will be in existence to satisfy the war mongers and their agendas but will be contained regionally.



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# INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOCUS

BY FAKIR HASSEN

Washington, USA - President Donald Trump's ascendancy to White House has contributed to the dramatic rise of anti-Muslim hate groups in the United States, according to a new report by the Southern Poverty Law Centre (SPLC). "The year 2016 was an unprecedented year for hate," said Mark Potok, senior fellow, and editor of the SPLC's 'The Year in Hate and Extremism' report. "The country saw a resurgence of white nationalism that imperils the racial progress we've made, along with the rise of a president whose policies reflect the values of white nationalists." Muslim hate groups jumped from 34 in 2015 to 101 last year, an increase of 197 percent, according to Potok, who contended that the large increase had been primarily pushed by anti-Muslim fear-mongering by Trump during his presidential campaign against Democratic rival Hillary Clinton.

New York, USA - New Yorkers of different faiths came together in Times Square for a Muslim solidarity rally intended to send a message to the White House. Hundreds of followers of other religions such as Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism and Sikhism turned out in support under the banner: "I Am A Muslim Too." "I guess we can thank Donald Trump for uniting us in a way that we have not been united," said Hip-Hop Mogul and Activist Russell Simmons, who helped organise the rally. The event doubled as a show of solidarity and as a protest against Trump and his administration's policies, like the travel ban he has imposed on several Muslim countries.

Amsterdam, THE NETHERLANDS -

Right-wing Politician Geert Wilders kicked off his election campaign with a promise to ban Muslim immigration and close all the mosques in the Netherlands. Wilders said he would "de-Islamize" the Netherlands with policies that go further than those of US President Donald Trump.

Jerusalem, PALESTINE - The Israeli Knesset's Ministerial Committee for Legislation has approved a new draft of the muezzin bill, which prohibits mosques from using loudspeakers for the call to prayer, labeling it noise pollution. The draft bill must be voted on at the Knesset in three readings in order to be signed into a law. The muezzin bill prohibits the use of loudspeakers to call to prayer in Jerusalem and Israel. The bill would prohibit calling the prayer from 11pm to 7am, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu approved the bill, saying that people "of all religions have complained countless times about noise from the muezzin." Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas condemned the bill, saying "it would drag the area to disaster."

London, UK - A job seeker with an English-sounding name was offered three times the number of interviews than an applicant with a Muslim name, a BBC test found. Inside Out London sent CVs from two candidates, "Adam" and "Mohammed," who had identical skills and experience, in response to 100 job opportunities. Adam was offered 12 interviews, while Mohammed was offered four. Although the results were based on a small sample size, they tally with the findings of previous academic studies that have found that British Muslims

are less proportionately represented in managerial and professional occupations than any other religious group.

Madinah, SAUDI ARABIA - The Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, Dr. Yousef Al-Othaimeen, has said that Madinah has the potential to become a regional hub for heritage and eco-tourism, considering its unique ecological attractions and historical landmarks. The government of Saudi Arabia has organised activities to celebrate Madinah as the capital of Islamic Tourism 2017 in addition to commissioning about 30 projects designed for the occasion, including a tourist bus service to the historical sites of Madinah.

Moscow, RUSSIA - The global Islamic finance industry, which is witnessing phenomenal growth rates with expansions in Europe and sukuk listings, will see a new entrant in Russia that hopes to cash in on the substantial Muslim population in the European country. "Our principal goal is to get acquainted with the Islamic finance system and implement it later in Russia where there are 25 million Muslims living," said Abubakar Arsamaskof, president of Moscow Industrial Bank.

Nairobi, KENYA - The Kenyan Tourism Regulatory Authority (TRA) plans to develop halal standards in its bid to increase the number of Muslim tourists. TRA Director General Lagat Kipkorir said the proposed guidelines were necessary to ensure halal catering, accommodation, and conferencing services.



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