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MANDELA

It won't be easy to forget the smile etched across that bright face, the laughing eyes, the soft voice that oozed kindness saying nice things to people all the time.

Happy faces, excitement, smiles galore everytime he appeared anywhere. Children, pensioners, academics, labourers, clerics, gangsters, rich, poor, everybody loved Nelson Mandela.

In this era, no statesman ever reached such heights in popularity as him.

But Madiba was not just a statesman. No statesman becomes such a household name just by engaging in politics and furthering the interests of a country.

Never forgetting that this same Nelson Mandela was a firebrand ANC activist who stood up to the dictatorial apartheid regime, and whose big booming voice was recorded in court hurling threats and challenges fearlessly at the racist all-white government.

Fearless and imposing, he left in chains, silent, yet visibly unbroken in his determination to deliver his promise to himself and his people that the chain of injustice would one day be snapped, and truth would prevail.

What hardship he endured on the notorious Robben Island as prisoner 46664, over 27 years, could not kill the fire of hope and courage. His spirit survived. And grew.

A new spark suddenly appeared and ignited his heart with a different flame. The inclination of Love and Compassion dominated as his inward struggle of mind, body, and soul, found shelter in a transcendental outlook towards life, and towards humanity, in particular.

The modern world's role-model-ambassador-of-peace was born. Right there on that island of misery under the sneering glares of jailers and torturers, and the gritty fortitude of other prisoners.

That Nelson Mandela who walked out of prison in the last decade of the millennium, was no less the man than before his incarceration, but much more.

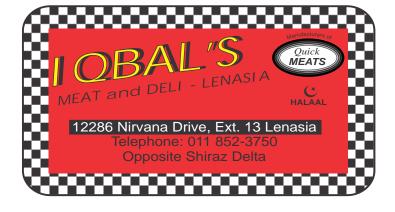
As time witnessed, the first democratically elected president of South Africa, had walked into and upto the highest floor in modern days Hall of Fame. His character and personality sparkled showing glimpses of true greatness, as of a human being who had reached the pinnacle of self-realisation and peace.

His valued example at so many levels of life leaves a legacy that will always remain, and enlikened to ...the timely heaven-sent rains which put out the bush-fires that could have escalated into hell's-own inferno!

How can we walk past the monuments, the eulogies, orbituaries, accolades, and the spirit of the nation, unaffected, while the whole world stands in respect and awe at the passing-on of a special human being?

And Allah is all-Aware!

(Irshad Ahmed Siddigi)





Al Kauŝar Pāgè 2

HAZRAT IMAM HASSAN AL MUJTABA

Imam Hasan & was the eldest son of Hazrat Ali and Hazrat Fatimah &. When the Holy Prophet * received the happy news of the birth of his grandson, he came to the house of his beloved daughter, took the newly born child in his arms, recited adhan and iqamah in his right and left ears respectively, and in compliance with Allah's command named him al-Hasan.

Imam Hassan & had a great worth and status in the eyes of the Holy Prophet . Such as, one day he Holy Prophet * was on the mimbar, delivering a speech to the people, he heard the voice of his weeping. He came down from the mimbar, went to calm him down, and then returned to his place. When the people asked him the reason for this act. He said, "Whenever I hear the voice of his weeping" I get restless". The Holy Prophet &, having offered his prayer along with the people, would lift Imam Hassan 🐗 into his lap and would say, "Whosoever loves me, must love this child as well". Sometimes, he **silited** this child upon his shoulder and said, "It is hoped that Allah will purify this Ummah through him". Or he would say, "Whosoever loves Hassan 🎄 and Hussain & he loves me and whosoever nurses grudge and has enmity against them has enmity with me". "Hassan 🐟 and Hussain 🐟 are the two chiefs of the youths of the paradise".

Remembrance of Allah:

Hazrat Imam Hassan devoted himself to prayers in such abundance, that all the limbs employed in prostration bore scars and impressions of his Sajdah (prostration). Most of the nights were spent on the prayer-carpet. The sense of his absorption and humiliation in prayers to Allah were in such earnest that he would shed tears profusely out of fear of Allah. While performing ablution, he trembled with the fear of Allah and his face grew pale at the time of prayers. His earnest meditation in the offering of prayers and his extreme absorption in communion with Allah would render him entirely unconscious of his environments.

His Piousness and Contentment:

Hazrat Imam Hassan had the worldly possessions at his disposal and could have well enjoyed a luxurious life, but he utilized all of it in the betterment of the condition of the poor. He was so courteous and humble that he never hesitated to sit along with the beggars in the lanes and on the thoroughfares of Medina to reply to some of their religious queries. Through his cordial attitude and hospitality he never let the poor and the humble feel inferior to him when they visited his abode.

Awareness and Courtesy:

One day, an old man was performing ablution. His ablution was futile and invalid. Imam Hassan 🐇 ought to make him aware of his fault but how? If he said to him you are wrong possibly his heart might break and he got annoyed and did not accept it. He along with Imam Hussain & decided to create a scene and ask the old man to make the judgment. Imam Hassan 🐞 addressed Imam Hussain 🐞 and said, "I perform a better ablution as compared to yours." Imam Hussain 🍇 said "I perform it better than you do." Both of them approached the old man and said, "You come and see our ablution and decide who performs a better ablution." Both of them got busy with performing ablution and ended it in a correct and nice way. The old man understood what was the secret of their act and became aware that they meant him to find out his fault, in this way. So he said to them "The ablution performed by both of you is correct. I am an old man, who did not know how to perform the ablution correctly. You made me aware about my fault. I am much thankful to you."

Shahaadat:

On the 28th day of Safar, 50th Hijrah when the weather was extremely hot and Hazrat Imam Hassan was fasting, Jodah bint Asash, poisoned his milk pot and presented to him for breaking the fast.

Imam Hassan spassed away having faced pain and discomfort. And was buried in the graveyard of Baqi in Medina.



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SAFAR-AL-MUZAFFAR

Safar al-Muzaffar is the second month of the Islamic calendar. Literal meaning of Safar is empty. During this month the houses used to be empty and deserted because the ban on going to war in the month of Muharram came to an end and everyone proceeded towards the battlefield.

Safar also means to be yellow. When the names of the months were being given it was the season of autumn and the leaves of the trees were yellow.

Many people have erroneous beliefs regarding this month i.e. it is a month of misfortune and calamities. The teachings of Allah Ta'ala and His Most Beloved Rasool (SallAllahu Alaihi wa Sallam) gives us clear guidelines on such incorrect beliefs.

Allah (Subhanahu wa Ta'ala) says in the Qur'an al-Kareem "No misfortune befalls except by Allah's command..." [Surah Tagabun, Verse 11]

These erroneous beliefs have also been condemned in the context of the following Ahadith:

There is no superstitious owl, bird, no star-promising rain, no bad omen in the month of Safar. [Sahih Bukhari, Hadith 5707]

There is no bad omen in the month of Safar and no Ghouls (evil spirits). [Sahih Muslim, Hadith 2222]

The above Ahadith clearly refutes all incorrect beliefs and superstitions regarding the month of Safar. These incorrect beliefs flow from the pre-Islamic period of Jahiliyyah.

The Month of Safar during the Days of Ignorance The Muhaddithin have recorded many of the superstitions harboured by the Arabs during the Days of Ignorance. A few are mentioned below:

- 1. The pre-Islamic Arabs believed Safar to be a snake which lives in the stomach of a human being and when hungry, bites the person. This is the discomfort one experiences when gripped by the pangs of hunger.
- 2. Some said Safar are worms which originate in the liver and ribs due to which the colour of the person becomes yellow, a condition we know today as jaundice.
- 3. According to some, the month of Safar flanked by Muharram and Rabi al Awwal is full of calamities and misfortune.

With the advent of Islam and the teachings of Sayyadina Rasoolullah (SallAllaho Alaihi wa Sallam), all evil and incorrect beliefs common in pre-Islamic times were discarded.

Incorrect Beliefs:

Today too, there are some Muslims who hold incorrect beliefs regarding the month of Safar.

- 1. A nikah performed in this month would not be successful.
- 2. This month is full of misfortune and calamities.
- 3. To commence any important venture, business etc. during this month will bring bad luck.
- 4. The first to the thirteenth of Safar is ill-fortune and evil.
 5. The person who distributes food or money on the 13th of Safar will be saved from its ill-fortune.
 6. To celebrate the last Wednesday of Safar and regard it as a holiday.

What to do:

- 1. To shun all types of erroneous beliefs regarding the blessed month of Safar.
- 2. To understand that the most unfortunate person is he who disobeys Allah Ta'ala's commandments e.g. does not perform the five daily salaah etc. It is narrated in a hadith that Rasoolullah (SallAllaho Alaihi wa Sallam) said: "Pray, 0 Allah! Cause not anyone of us to be a wretched destitute." He then asked: "Do you know who is a wretched destitute?" Upon the request of the Sahabah (Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhum) he replied, "A wretched destitute is he who neglects his salaat."
- 3. We should understand that all conditions which befalls us, good or bad, favourable, or unfavourable are from Allah Ta'ala, (as a result of our actions). Allah Ta'ala says: "Whatever misfortune befalls you, it is due to the things your hands have wrought, and He forgives many a sin." (Surah 42 Verse 30).

This can also be confirmed by the following Hadith:

Sayyadina Jabir (Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu) has said that, "I have heard Sayyadina Rasoolullah (SallAllaho Alaihi wa Sallam) saying, the descending of illness and evil superstition befalling in the month of Safar is untrue."





Äl Kauŝar Págė 4

HAZRAT DATA GANJ BAKHSH 🚕

MOULANA SAYED IMRAAN ZIAEE

Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh (**) was a great saint of Islam. His name was Ali Hajveri, He became popular by the name Data Ganj Bakhsh. He was born in 400 A.H. in the city of Ghazni in Afghanistan. He belonged to a Sayed family (descendant of the Holy Prophet **). He completed his earlier education in Ghazni. At a very early age he became Haafiz-ul-Quraan. He further studied the language of Arabic and Farsi. He was well versed in the knowledge of Hadith, Fiqh and Philosophy.

After completing his education, he searched for spiritual education. He travelled to many places for this purpose, and finally became the spiritual disciple (Mureed) of Hazrat Abul Fazal Mohammad bin Khatli, in Junaidiya Sufi Order, who lived in Syria. Whilst staying in Syria Hazrat Ali Hajveri started his spiritual education under the guidance of his (Pir-o-Murshid) Spiritual Master, Hazrat Abul Fazal. He slept less, ate less, and performed tough (Mujahidas) Strivings. He would go into long meditation sessions seeking spiritual upliftment. He travelled to many countries and places like Iran, Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Arabia, Azerbaijan etc. On his trips he also met many Sufi saints and dervishes of various Sufi orders.

He would go to the blessed grave (Mazaar) of Hazrat Bayazid Bistami (*) whenever he needed to solve a spiritual mystery. He would ask Allah through the Wasila (medium) of Hazrat Bayazid Bistami. Data Saheb always wore simple clothes, thus sometimes the Sufis did not recognize him as a Wali – Friend of Allah *. He always remained patient and humble.

While he was in Syria, he visited the blessed tomb (Mazaar) of Hazrat Bilal , The famous companion and Muazzin of Nabi (ﷺ). He slept at the Mazaar for a while, and found himself in the holy city of Makkah, he saw the Holy Prophet with an old man, Hazrat Ali Hajveri fell on the feet of the Holy Prophet and kissed it. The Holy Prophet said: "O Ali Hajveri this old man is Abu Hanifa, your Imam."

His Pir ordered him to go to Lahore to preach the teachings of Islam. He said: "Huzoor, Hazrat Shah Hussain Zanjani is already there for this purpose, so then why should I go there? Hazrat Abul Fazal said: "Go to

Lahore." On the order of his Murshid he left Syria and went to Lahore, In 1041 A.D (431 A.H) he reached Lahore. As he arrived he saw people carrying a Janaaza towards the graveyard for burial. He asked: "who has left?" The People replied: "He is Hazrat Shah Hussain Zanjani". After hearing this, he understood why his teacher Hazrat Abul Fazal sent him to Lahore. He eventually built a beautiful Masjid in Lahore which many scholars argued that the Masjid was not facing the Qibla - direction of Holy Kaa'ba. He ignored all of them. When he completed building the Masjid he invited all the scholars and told them "Now that you are in this Masjid you see which direction is Qibla" They were amazed to see that they were able to see the Holy Kaa'ba as if they were sitting in front of the Holy Kaa'ba. They felt ashamed and apologized.

Hazrat Ali Hajveri also built a room adjacent to that mosque, and used that room as Khanqa (Spiritual School). Many unbelievers accepted Islam on his hands; many people touched the higher stages of spirituality under his guidance. He married twice, but both of his wives died soon after marriage. He had a son, named Hassan.

Hazrat Ali Hajveri wrote many books, some of his books are: Diwan-e-She'r; Minhajuddin; Al-Bayaan; Israarul Kharq Wal-Mauniyat; Behrul Quloob; Kitab Fana Wa Baqa; Birri'ayat Be-Huqooq-Ullah; Kashful Israr; Sharah-e-Kalam; and Kashful Mahjub.

Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh left this mundane world at the age of 65 in 465 A.H., in Lahore. When Hazrat Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti & came to Lahore in 561 A.H (1165 AD), he stayed at the Mazaar of Hazrat Data Ali Hajveri for forty days, where he meditated, when he finished his meditation, he said a couplet in Farsi:

Ganj Bakhsh Faiz-e-Aalam; Mazhare Nure Khuda, Naqisa-ra Pir-e-Kaamil; Kaamila-ra Rahnuma

which means:

Ganj Baskh (Bestower of Spiritual Treasures) is a grace to the world; a manifester of God's light. A perfect spiritual teacher for the beginners; a guide of perfection.





Äl Kauŝar Pāgē 5

Quran Contains Everything . . . Hazrat Mehr Ali Shah & 's Reply to American Priest)

Once an American Priest questioned Hazrat Peer Mehr Ali Shah Saheb , 'Why there is no reference of Hazrat Imam Hussain in Quran which is against the Muslim claim that everything is found in Quran.

Hazrat Peer Mehr Ali Shah Saheb - response:

An American priest/clergyman on a visit to Golra Sharif once raised this objection in Hazrat Peer Mehr Ali Shah Saheb's spresence: "The Muslims claim that the Quran contains a reference to everything in the universe. Yet it makes no reference to Imam Hussain &, even though it kept being continuously revealed during the first six years of the Imam's life. This is a surprising omission, considering the supreme sacrifice that the Imam offered in the cause of Islam. Hazrat Peer Mehr Ali Shah Saheb 🧆 asked the clergyman to quote any part of the Quran so that his objection could be responded to. When the latter recited Quran's opening Ayah before reading a substantive portion of the Quran, Hazrat asked him to stop there. He then drew the cleric's attention to the fact that from the point of view of "Abjad", the number of the various letters of the words totals to 786. Thereafter, he asked the cleric to note down the number of Sayedna Imam Hussain's name and related episodes of his life as follows:

The name, Imam Hussain = 210 Year of Birth = 4 (A.H) Year of Martyrdom = 61 (A.H) The words Karb-o-Bala = 261The name Imam Hassan = 200Years of his Martyrdom = 50 (A.H) Total = 786

Hazrat Peer Mehr Ali Shah Saheb & thus demonstrated that a reference to Sayeduna Imam Hussain &, his brother Sayeduna Imam Hassan &, the years of their martyrdom etc. appeared in the very first verse of the Quran.

This discourse of Hazrat Peer Mehr Ali Shah Saheb & left the American clergyman amazed at the depth and breadth of the research that Muslim scholars and divine had carried out over the centuries into various aspects of the Holy book which they staunchly believe to be the Word of God Himself.

The whole life of Hazrat Peer Mehr Ali Shah Saheb was a model for the whole Ummah. All his life, he cleansed the hearts of the people who were in search of the righteous path of Allah, purifying them from all the worldly things and enlightened their hearts with the love of Allah and the Holy Prophet . One can find the code of life and its



pattern in Hazrat's sayings. Following are some of the sayings which are mostly extracted from the "Malfuzaate-Mehria", (letters) of Hazrat Mehr Ali Shah Saheb ...

- * Every breath of life is a priceless treasure; it should be devoted to the remembrance of the Lord (Allah Almighty), and to the seeking of His pleasure.
- * True faith can be sustained through the love of Allah.
- * The true Abd, (i.e., slave) of Allah derives infinitely more happiness and satisfaction from spreading his hands before Him in prayer than from achieving his own worldly objectives.
- * The love of Allah and His Prophet si infinitely superior to the love of mortal human beings and of other worldly things.
- * Observance of the Holy Prophet's \$\mathbb{\tilde{S}}\$ Shariah and of his personal example (Sunnah) has precedence over everything else.
- * There is no conflict whatsoever between the "Shariah" and the "Tariqah". While the formal constitutes the injunctions of Allah and His Prophet **, the latter consists in acting meticulously upon those injunctions.
- * Spiritual elevation does not give any one a license to ignore the shariah. Indeed, the higher a person goes on the spiritual scale, the greater should be his observance of the Prophet's shariah ##.
- * One should carry on one's legitimate business in life, and should at the same time consider Allah to be Omnipresent and All-Seeing.
- * The (true) dervish considers every one else better than him self; he tries to rectify his own faults instead of finding faults with others.
- * A dervish is one who opposes whatever his baser self (Nafs-e-Ammara) impels him to do.
- * Being a dervish is a state of mind, and does not necessarily depend on the type of dress that one wears, or the food that one eats, so long as these are acquired through lawful means. Ideally, of course, it is preferable to follow the example of the Holy Prophet * who prided in simplicity and frugality.
- * One should answer humility with humility, but need not be humble before the proud and the conceited.
- * Seeking the favour or pleasure of persons in high office may be alright for the common man; it is undesirable for those who aspire to be dervish or Sufi.
- * A Salik (traverser of the path) should have nothing to do with the good or the bad of the world; he should devote his entire attention to his Lord at all times.



Al Kauŝar Page 6

A'LA HAZRAT IMAM AHMED RAZA KHAN

MOULANA BASHIR KHAN

In this present time, Imam Ahmed Raza Khan sis not only the name of one individual person, but it is the name which "demonstrates the movement of the love of the Holy Prophet sis.". In this time, Sayyiduna A'la Hazrat sis one of the "power houses" of the Muslim world. His personality is one of the central points of gaining spiritual and academic benefit. He was proficient in more than 50 branches of knowledge. In his 65 years of physical life he wrote approximately 1 200 treatises. Hazrat Muhaddith-e-Azame-Hind signal and a Khalifa of Sayyiduna A'la Hazrat signal, "IF ALL THE PAST BOOKS OF FIQH HAD TO BE DESTROYED, THEN THE BOOKS OF A'LA HAZRAT signal would be sufficient up to QIYAAMAH."

A'la Hazrat was not only a Hafiz-ul-Quran, a Qari, an Aalim, a Mufti, a Muffassir and a Sheikh-ul-Hadith, but he was "the Imam-e-Azam Abu Hanifa of his time".

A'LA HAZRAT'S FIRST HAJJ

Imagine the condition of that Lover of the Prophet or Aashik-e-Rasool & who is blessed with the opportunity of visiting the Rauza-e-Aqdas of the Holy Prophet & and placing his eyes on the doorstep of the Holy Prophet &. This opportunity of performing his first Hajj and Ziyaarah was granted to A'la Hazrat & on the 26th of Shawwal 1295 A.H. (1876). He was 20 years of age.

One day, after completing his Hajj, he went to perform his Maghrib Salaah before the Maqaam-e-Ibrahim. Having completed his Salaah, the Imam of the Shafi'i order of Makkatul Mukarramah, Allamah Hussain bin Saleh Kamaal , approached him. He clutched A'la Hazrat by his hand and led him to his house. The great Imam then placed his hand on the blessed forehead of A'la Hazrat and said: "Verily, I am observing the Noor of Almighty Allah on this forehead."

Without hesitation, he blessed A'la Hazrat with the Sanad (Certificate) of Sahih Sitta (Six Compilers of Hadith: Bukhari, Muslim, Ibn Majah, Abu Dawood, Tirmizi and Nisa'i). He also began addressing A'la Hazrat by the title of "Zia'uddeen" or "The Light or Splendour of Deen."

A'la Hazrat was also blessed with the Sanads of Ahadith from the Muftis of the Hanafi order in Makkatul Mukarramah, Sayyiduna Allamah Abdur Rahmaan Siraaj and Mufti Sheikh Sayed Ahmad Dahlaan Shafi'i was.

IT WAS ALSO DURING THIS HISTORICAL VISIT THAT SAYYIDUNA A'LA HAZRAT INFORMED THE ULEMA-E-HARAMAIN SHARIFAIN CONCERNING THE BLASPHEMOUS AND CORRUPT BELIEFS OF THE ULEMA-E-DEOBAND. Having studied A'la Hazrat's books, "Aljaamu Sunnah Li Ahli Fitna" and "Al Mu'tamadul Mustanad", which he presented to them, they also gave their verdicts on those who committed blasphemy and those who had written words of disrespect against Almighty Allah and His Beloved Rasool . The verdicts of the Ulema of Makkatul Mukarramah and Madinatul Munawwarah were compiled to form the famous, "Husaamul Haramain." We have quoted a few of

the Fatawas from "Husaamul Haramain" later in this book.

A'LA HAZRAT'S SECOND HAJJ

Imam Ahmed Raza Khan sperformed his second Hajj in 1323 A.H. (1905). He was 49 years old.

On the 25th of Zil-Hajj, Sayyiduna A'la Hazrat sonce again had the opportunity of meeting the great Imam, Sheikh Saleh Kamaal so. He also met Allamah Sayed Ismae'el sond many other Noble Ulema, who showed great respect towards him.

It was on this occasion that Allamah Sheikh Saleh Kamaal presented A'la Hazrat with five questions pertaining to I'lm-e-Ghaib (Knowledge of the Unseen). These questions were posed on behalf of the Wahabi Ulema of Makkatul Mukarramah. A'la Hazrat had to answer these five questions in two days.

In so happened that on the following day, A'la Hazrat contracted a heavy fever. In spite of his illness, he managed to answer all the questions relating to I'lm-e-Ghaib. In fact, A'la Hazrat presented such a detailed answer to the question of I'lm-e-Ghaib that it turned out to be a complete book on its own. He named this book, "Al Daulatul Makkiyah Bil Maadatil Ghaibiya."

The Learned Ulema of Haramain Sharifain were totally astounded when A'la Hazrat presented this book to them on time. He completed this book of approximately 400 pages in only 8 hours. It was also in the pure Arabic language. If one totals the numerical values of the Arabic letters in the context of this Kitaab, "Al Daulatul Makkiyah Bil Maadatil Ghaibiya," one would discover that they amount to 1323. It was the same year, that is, 1323 A.H., in which A'la Hazrat performed his second Hajj!

Many years have passed since the demise of Sayyiduna A'la Hazrat , but his blessed name and his works are still famous throughout the world. Many have tried to degrade the rank of A'la Hazrat , but they never achieved success. Such people have been destroyed and their plans destroyed with them. The mission of Sayyiduna A'la Hazrat , even till this day, is becoming brighter and more successful as time goes on.

"Sub un ke jalne waalo ke gul ho gaye chiraag Ahmed Raza ka sham'a feroza he aajh bhi."

The reason for this success is that the blessed hands which are guiding and moulding the mission of A'la Hazrat are none other than the Blessed Hands of the Holy Prophet and the Blessed Hands of Sayyiduna Ghousul-Azam, Sheikh Abdul Qaadir Jilani Baghdadi

Sayyiduna A'la Hazrat is in the Blessed Hand of Huzoor Ghousul Azam, like a pen in the hand of a writer, and Sayyiduna Ghousul Azam (is in the hand of Sayyiduna Rasulullah is like a pen in the hand of a writer!

Al Kausar Page 7

PRIDE - The Disease of Humanity

MOULANA NASIK AHMED BROOD

Pride is an inwardly directed emotion that carries a negative connotation because pride refers to an inflated sense of one's personal status or accomplishments. Pride could also be referred to as a disagreement with the truth. Pride could also be defined as indirectly or directly humiliating someone etc. merely for our own gratification. The only pleasure that people with pride acquire is that they think that by ill-treating others they make their own superiority greater. Pride itself is associated with more intra-individual negative outcomes and is commonly related to expressions of aggression and hostility. Excessive feelings of pride have a tendency to create conflict and sometimes terminating close relationships, which has led it to be understood as one of the few emotions without any positive or adaptive functions. Pride and vanity is believed to be justified by one's own achievements and actions, but sought by pretence and appeals to superficial characteristics. There is no tongue that can express, or heart that can conceive the horrid sins and miseries that pride has ushered in among human beings.

Life is about keeping our heart pure and one of the greatest impurities is pride. The disease of pride and arrogance deletes all traces of goodness and piety. This is the worst vice in causing havoc to Deen and a regrettable disease to have for the believers of this perfect and exalted religion. It launches a direct attack on beliefs and principles. If ignored and overlooked for some time it becomes fatal and incurable, and gives rise to other spiritual vices. It is imperative to refrain from such a dangerous and deadly calamity which leads to loss of knowledge, inability to understand the commands of Allah Almighty and Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam), disgrace in this world and the Hereafter and painful torment therein. No wise person can be neglectful in the matter of such a harmful and destructive calamity. Pride as a sin is considered to be insignificant in comparison to other major sins by a vast majority of the people. This is an entirely false thought and huge misconception. The way in which the disease of pride is reflected is that the person refuses and does not want anyone to correct them.

Arrogant people imagine that every characteristic they possess belongs to them. For example, they imagine that their intelligence stems from themselves. Instead of realizing that it is a blessing bestowed on them by Allah Almighty and giving thanks for it, they regard it as something to be proud of. By overestimating this attribute in their own eyes they belittle and disparage those around them. As a result of this behavior, their associates find them unattractive and repellent. That means that arrogant people never have true, honest friends who feel a genuine affection for them. They also find it difficult to demonstrate affection towards others. They always want to be the

object of love and affection, because in their own eyes they are superior to everybody else. This state of mind leads to another behavioral defect: envy. They envy the intelligence, reason, moral values or good character of others. They regard everything those people possess with a jealous eye. If someone with superior features to their own is present, they immediately want to leave. Their envy means they are invariably unable to get along with others. Allah Almighty has given a troublesome mood to these people who are grabbed by the sickness of pride. In the same way that arrogant people gain nothing but trouble, sorrow and unhappiness in the life of this world, they also forego the Hereafter and, most important of all, the love of Allah Almighty.

Allah Almighty mentions in the Holy Quraan: "He does not like the prideful." (S 16: V 23) In another verse of the holy Quraan Allah Almighty says: "Surely Allah Almighty does not love those who are arrogant and boastful." (S 4: V 36) There are many verses in the Holy Quraan whereby Allah Almighty indicates His dislike and punishment for those who are proud. The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam) has mentioned: "He who has in his heart the weight of an atom of pride shall not enter Paradise." (Muslim) A great scholar once said that sitting with wise people makes a person wiser; sitting with ignorant people makes a person ignorant; sitting with poor and less fortunate people removes the ego and pride from ones heart. My teacher had informed us that as long as a person is proud then that person cannot understand and differentiate right from wrong or good from bad. The reason is because a proud man is always looking down on other people; and, of course, as long as a person is looking down that person cannot see something that is above them. I believe that pride and arrogance is a cover up for insecurity.

May Allah Almighty, through the Wasilah of Nabi (Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam), grant us the strength and ability to refrain and forsake such a contemptible outlook from our lives. Aameen!

For The Esaal e Sawaab of:

- 1.) Hazrat Ghulaam Mustapha (R.A)
- 2.) Hazrat Baba Kassim Faridi (R.A)
- 3.) Hazrat Sayed Khalid Shah (R.A)
- 4.) Hazrat Khadim Ghulam Jilani (R.A)
 - 5.) Late Hajee Cassim Sonvadi

And All Marhooms

From Hajee Goolam Saber Sonvadi (Essack)

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Äl Kausar Page 8



BY MOULANA SHAH FAISAL KHAN SAHEB

Q1) There is a general perception that the months of Muharram and Saffar (first two months of the Islamic calendar) have an evil in them and anything major done in these months for eg, purchasing a business, house, wedding etc it is unsuccessful. Kindly explain if the perception is correct or not according to the Shariah.

A1) To regard the months of Muharram and Saffar as "unlucky" months and suspend important matters with the belief/fear of them being unsuccessful was the belief of the pre Islamic era. The Holy Prophet condemned this belief. Hazrat Abu Huraira said "There is no bad omen". In another narration it is recorded "There is no (bad omen) in (the month of) Saffar. [Mishkaat Shareef].

Therefore one should not suspend any matter in the months of Saffar, with the belief that they are unlucky months. Yes, on the arrival of every new month, new year rather than every new day, we should discharge some Sadqah in appreciation to Allah's countless blessings bestowed upon us, physically, spiritually.

According to Hadith Shareef of the Most Beloved Prophet of Almighty Allah saying "Subhanallah" and "Alhamdullilah" is also Sadqah.

Creating brotherhood and reconciliation between two fighting and separated family members is also Sadqah and removing any harmful object from the path, road or passageway is also Sadqah. the best way of Sadqah is to help and feed the destitute people, to bring happiness in the hearts of fellow Muslims is a great Ibadah of Almighty Allah.

Another holy Hadith of the holy Prophet siguides us "The Sadqah removes calamaties". Along with all these, one must remember his creator, cherisher, sustainer before every place, everything, every month and time. Everybody is in His divine control and He Almighty has promised us in His noble and glorious book of Al Quraan "You remember me, my mercy, my power, my majesty, my creation will remember you.

The remembrance of Allah is hidden in the remembrance of His most beloved and beautiful prophet, whose remembrance is hidden in the following:

Loving and respecting His Holy Messages and His beautiful teachings who has said:

* One must perform Ibaadah and avoid any sin. * Love and respect your creator, His Prophets, your teachers, your parents, your neighbours, your people, etc.

Allama Iqbal Lahori said very beautifully, " Aaj se jo ho braheem se imaan paida, aag kar sakti hai andaaz-e-gulistan paida" Translation- even today in this time and era too that burning fire and its blazes can turn into a beautiful garden, provided that someone must have that strong love, dedication and Iman of Sayyiduna Ebrahim.

Q2) Can one read his salaah behind any Imaam who is other than Sunni Aalim or Imaam?

A2) Except for the Ahle Sunnah wal Jama'ah. All other different sects or groups either they are kaafir (out of the fold of Islam) or misguided (gumraah). Reading Namaaz behind any kaafr is nothing but useless, nullified and a sinful act and behind any such misguided one, who never yet reach the limits of Kufr (disbelief) is haraam. Considering and making him an Imaam is sinful and reading Namaaz behind him is Makrooh-e-Tahreemi- i.e. compulsory to repeat that Namaaz. Reading Namaaz is not allowed behind one who rejects the intercession of Nabi nor does he believe in Kiraaman Kaatibeen angels. And a Raafidhi who prefers Hazrat Ali 🕸 over other Khulafaa-e-Raashideen i.e. Hazrat Abu Bakr 🚓 Hazrat Umar and Hazrat Uthmaan a, he is misguided. It is haraam to make him an Imaam and if he rejects the Khalifa of Hazrat Abu Bakr, then he is a kaafir and over and above all of them the most severe ruling is against Wahaabis of these days who disgraced Almighty Allah and His Most Beloved Prophet in their so called Islamic books. According to Fatawa Hossam-ul-Haramain and As-Sawaarim-ul-Hindiyah even Deobandees due to their blasphemic beliefs, they are out of the folds of Islam. Reading Namaaz behind their Imaams is Haraam.

Namaaz is a very valuable blessing and a treasure for a believer, we must protect our valuable things against any type of damage. Shaytaan is the biggest thief of this valuable Imaan; he whispers and creates doubts in our minds and hearts by saying and putting in our thoughts what is wrong in reading Namaaz in any Masjid? You're reading Namaaz for Allah Ta'aala and not for any Imaam or all Masjids are Allah Ta'aala's beautiful houses etc.

Dear brothers and friends in Islam

A great Tabi'ee and Wali of Allah, Allama Seereen has reported a very stern Hadith Shareef of the Beloved Prophet ﷺ, "Before you start learning and taking your Deen from anyone, you must check him (verify). All children of a community are a creation of Allah, but you won't allow your children mixing with ill-mannered ones, swearing ones, thieves or those who drink. You won't allow your fresh and intact foods or fruits to be mixed with rotten ones because you know that these rotten ones will damage all the good ones. Similarly, our guide, our leader, our master, the Holy Prophet * has stopped us from joining and mixing with these misguided ones, reading Namaaz behind any other Imaam other than your own Sunni Imaam is never allowed and if someone does so knowingly, Allah will turn his heart and mind like these disgusting ones.

May Allah protect our Imaan!

Äl Kauŝar Pāgè 9

SPIRITUAL SELF UPLOAD

BY SHEIKH ZUZE ISHAAQ - HEAD OF DAWAH ACTIVITIES AT ORANGE FARM

A person cannot perfect his/her relationship with Allah unless he/she perfects the inner self and relationship with others. Islam teaches us to constantly consider which deeds and behaviour will be pleasing to Allah and to interact with others in the same way. Allah says in the Noble Qur'an, 'The Nobler among you in the sight of Allah is the more righteous among you'

Indeed rectification of internal and spiritual self is the pillar to reform one's external self. We should look at the integrities and priorities of our lives everyday. We should realize our gifts and be thankful to Allah. Being a Muslim is to change yourself to fit Islam, not to change Islam to fit you. Nabi Muhammad (saw) said, 'Deeds are judged according to the intentions from which they were made'. Righteousness is good morality and wrong doing is that which waves in your soul and which you dislike people finding out about, so we Praise Almighty Allah who is Glorified and Exalted, We are grateful to Him by words and deeds which should bring us blessings and rewards.

We really need to bring the best character of Nabi (saw) into our lives, and it is the only way we will keep Allah on our side. On authority of Abu Al-Abbas Abdullah ibn Abbass (ra) who said, " One day I was behind the Prophet (saw) riding on the same mount and He said to me, young man, I shall teach you some words of advice, Be mindful of Allah, Allah will protect you, be mindful of Allah, and you will find Him in front of you. If you ask, ask of Allah, if you seek help, seek help of Allah. Know that if the nation were to gather together to benefit you with anything, it would benefit you only with something that Allah had already prescribed for you, and if the nation were to gather to harm you, it would harm you only with what Allah has prescribed for you, the pens have been lifted and the leaves have been dried'.

So with this comprehensive understanding of Islam, I came to learn that the better your Prayers the better your rozi and Akhlaaq. If you wish for a long life and

increased rizq, be good to parents, practise good actions with relatives, stay with wudhu rizq will increase, give Sadaqah rizq will increase. With this in mind let's go again through soul transformation session that will totally bring peace in our minds;

Stay away from anger, it hurts only but you. If you are right then there is no need to get angry, and if you are wrong then you don't have any right to get angry. Patience is love and with others it is respect, Patience with self is confidence and with Allah is faith. Never think hard about the past, it will bring tears, don't think more about the future it brings fear. So live this moment with a smile and it will bring you cheer. Every test in our lives make us bitter or better and every problem comes to mould us or break us, so the choice is ours whether we become victims or victorious. And remember beautiful things are not always good but good things are always beautiful and happiness will keep us sweet and being sweet brings us joy.

Lastly, oh Muslims be prepared for the change of months for Almighty Allah has shifted us from Muharram to Safar and these are signs of our journeys from this world to the next. And these months are nothing but stages of our lives, lets change our character to better ones for a spiritual self rectification, as we ask Almighty Allah to assist us all in the performance of good deeds which he likes and pleased with, and May He treat with His Mercy everyday to trend in the right path and May He forgive our shortcomings. Ameen!



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Äl Kausar Pagė 10

BENEFITS OF WALKING

BY HASINA BEGUM SAYED

Walking is one of the easiest and cheapest ways to exercise. Experts agree that you should get 30 minutes of moderate-level physical activity on most days of the week -- walking is one of these activities. There are also has several health benefits of walking, such as reducing your risk of certain medical conditions (such as high blood pressure and heart disease), reducing depression, and helping you sleep better.

The Benefits of Walking

Experts agree that physical activity is one of the cornerstones for good health, and walking is one of the easiest (and cheapest) ways to be physically active. All you need is a good pair of shoes, and you can do it almost anywhere and at any time.

All you need is 30 minutes of moderate-level physical activity on most days of the week to see health benefits. Brisk walking is considered a type of moderate-level physical activity.

You can even divide the 30 minutes into shorter periods of at least 10 minutes each. For instance, use stairs instead of an elevator, get off a bus one or two stops early, or park your car at the far end of the lot at work.

If you already engage in 30 minutes of moderatelevel physical activity a day, you can get added benefits by doing more. Engage in a moderate-level activity for a longer period each day, or engage in a more vigorous activity.

Specific Walking Benefits

Based on research studies, walking on a regular basis has the following health benefits:

- * It reduces your risk of dying from heart disease or stroke
- * It lowers your risk of heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, colon cancer, and diabetes

* It lowers high blood pressure (hypertension)

- * It protects against falling and bone fractures in older adults
- * It may help protect against certain types of cancer, such as breast cancer
- * It increases the number of calories your body uses, which helps to control your weight
- * It helps control joint swelling and pain from arthritis.

Regular physical activity, such as walking, can also make you feel better, because it:

- * Helps keep your bones, muscles, and joints healthy
- * Reduces anxiety and depression, boosting your mood

* Helps you handle stress

* Helps you feel more energetic

* Helps you sleep better

* Improves your self-esteem

* Gives you an opportunity to socialize actively with friends and family.

Starting to Walk

Once you are ready to begin your walking program, start slowly if you are not active now. Try to walk 5 minutes a day for the first week. Walk 8 minutes the next week. Stay at 8-minute walks until you feel comfortable. Then increase your walks to 11 minutes. Slowly lengthen each walk by 3 minutes, or walk faster.

- * Wear comfortable walking shoes with a lot of support, including proper arch support, a firm heel, and thick, flexible soles that will cushion your feet and absorb shock. If you walk frequently, you may need to buy new shoes often. You may wish to speak with a podiatrist about when you need to purchase new walking shoes.
- * Wear garments that prevent inner-thigh chafing, such as tights or spandex fabric. Also wear clothes that will keep you dry and comfortable. Look for synthetic fabrics that absorb sweat and remove it from your skin.
- * Choose a safe place to walk. Find a partner or group of people to walk with you. Your walking partner(s) should be able to walk with you on the same schedule and at the same speed.
- * Think of your walk in three parts. Warm up by walking slowly for five minutes. Then increase your speed and do a fast walk. Finally, cool down by walking slowly again for five minutes.
- * Do light stretching after your warm-up and cool-
- * Try to walk at least three times per week. Each week, add two or three minutes to your walk. If you walk fewer than three times per week, you may need more time to adjust before you increase the pace or frequency of your walk.

* Start gradually to avoid stiff or sore muscles and joints. Over several weeks, begin walking faster, going farther, and walking for longer periods of time.

- * Set goals and rewards. Some examples of goals are participating in a fun walk or walking continuously for 30 minutes.
- *Keep track of your progress with a walking journal or log.
- * The more you walk, the better you may feel and the more calories you may burn. Experts recommend 30 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity on most, if not all, days of the week. If you cannot do 30 minutes at a time, try walking for shorter amounts and gradually working up to it.

A DEAL THAT WAS NOT A DEAL

BY FAIZEL KHAMKAR

The six most influential political powers of this day, namely The United States, Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia has brokered a deal with Iran with regard to its nuclear programme and ambitions. In terms of this deal which is classified as interim and will be for a period of six months Iran will be allowed to develop its nuclear facilities up to a point and will not go beyond the agreed point of uranium enrichment. Furthermore the International Energy Agency (IEA) will have full access to all the nuclear facilities on a daily basis. The United States will in turn lift some of its economic boycott during the period of the agreement. After the six months period there will be a review of the agreement which will then be taken to the next level providing there has been compliance on Iran's side. The next level could bring about a new level of easing of sanctions.

The first issue which needs to be examined is the chance of success of this agreement. Israel, as expected has strongly condemned the agreement while the Gulf States has given muted responses.

Despite what appears to be cracks between the Israel/Western alliances's it does not require a great thinker to realise that the Israeli interest will be taken into account. Furthermore the Gulf States have their own agenda and ambitions in the area. As much as the United States wants to further its influence in the region it dares not risk its current influence which on the surface appears to be at its most fragile in recent history.

The success of this agreement therefore depends on what the agenda of the United States are, how influential they are over the gulf regions states and if it they can withstand the Jewish onslaught. The latter may not be the easiest hurdle to overcome taking into account the pressure Obama is facing with regard to his health care legislation. A certain measure of security lies in the fact that Russia and China are signatories to the agreement. Both these countries have their own design for the region. They too want to exert their influence on the region which they have been strengthening slowly but surely over the last few years. However with every signatory to the agreement having their own ambitions and agendas are the ambitions of the Iranians taken into account. Have the Iranians been coerced into this deal or are they mindful of their national interest. This fact will determine the co operation of the Iranians.

Another factor to take into account is the Syrian conflict. To date no headway is made to resolve that crisis and it is acknowledged that Iran is a big player in that conflict. Would this be a strategy to reduce Iran's influence and attempt to secure Western influence in the Syrian region? This would be what their master Israel would want as it would leave the Palestinians more vulnerable ala Sisi.

The global economic crisis may also have contributed

to this interim agreement. This agreement would then be the ideal smokescreen to delay any military engagement which the west cannot afford right now. On the other hand it may be utilised as important intelligence in the event of staging an invasion and more accurate information becomes available as was the case of the IEA investigation in Iraq prior to the illegal Iraqi invasion.

Scratching beyond the surface of a win-win deal it appears that once more the masses will be fooled in believing that a genuine attempt at world peace is being made.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

- 1. Do you know why a car's WINDSHIELD is so large & the rear view mirror is so small? Because our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE. So, look ahead and move on.
- 2. Friendship is like a BOOK. It takes few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.
- 3. All things in life are temporary. If going well enjoy it, they will not last forever. If going wrong don't worry, they can't last long either.
- 4. Old friends are like Gold! New friends are Diamonds! If you get a Diamond, don't forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond, you always need a base of Gold!
- 5. Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, "Relax, it's just a bend, not the end!
- 6. When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when GOD doesn't solve your problems HE has faith in your abilities.
- 7. A blind person asked "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He's replied: "Yes, losing your vision."
- 8. When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them; and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you
- 9. WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES; it takes away today's PEACE.

BIRTH OF THE NEW MOON FOR RABI-UL-AWWAL 1435 WEDNESDAY 1 JANUARY 2014 @ 13:15 Z T O C C S Al Kauŝar Page 12

INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOCUS

BY FAKIR HASSEN

Luanda, ANGOLA - Angola has become the first country in the world to ban Islam and Muslims. "The process of legalisation of Islam has not been approved by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, their mosques would be closed until further notice," Rosa Cruz de Silva, the Angolan Minister of Culture, said as she confirmed that the decision was the latest is a series of efforts to ban 'illegal' religious sects. Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos was quoted in Nigeria's Osun Defender newspaper on as saying: "This is the final end of Islamic influence in our country." A minaret of an Angolan mosque was reportedly dismantled in October, and the city of Zango has allegedly destroyed the only mosque in the city. The provincial governor of Luanda, Bento Bento, has also said on local radio that Muslims were not welcome in Angola and that the government would not sthe presence of mosques in the country.

Athens, GREECE - In stark contrast to the Angolan government decision to ban Islam, the Greek government is financing construction of the first mosque in Athens, 13 years after plans were first announced. A Greek consortium has been chosen, the infrastructure ministry said, after five previous attempts to find a business group to lead the project failed. Athens is one of the few European capitals without a mosque. It is being built on land formerly used by the military but it will not have a minaret. The only official mosques to be found in Greece are situated in the north east region of Thrace, where a minority group of Muslim Turks live. Washington, USA - The United States has released about \$8 billion of the Iran's frozen assets, according to former head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce Alinagi Khamoushi. The move came amid thawing relations between the two countries after decades of sanctions. "The agreement will open a new path towards Iran," Khamoushi said after Iran and six world powers signed a breakthrough agreement to restrain Tehran's nuclear program in exchange for limited sanctions relief. The U.S. government has also suspended some restrictions on gold and precious metals trade and lifted sanctions on Iran's petrochemical exports that were imposed earlier this year.

Cairo, EGYPT - Egypt's Interim President Adly Mansour has signed a restrictive new "protest law" that would require Egyptians to seek approval days in advance before organising demonstrations. It gives police wide latitude to use force against demonstrators, which could give the government a pretext for a widespread crackdown. The law has gone through numerous revisions, but rights groups say the latest version requires protesters to seek approval from police three days in advance, and allows the interior ministry to block rallies that could "pose a serious threat to security or peace".

New York, USA - The UN General Assembly's human rights committee has passed a resolution urging Myanmar to give the stateless Rohingya Muslim minority equal access to citizenship and to crack down on Buddhist violence against them and other Muslims in the Southeast Asian nation. The resolution received mixed reaction in Myanmar, which emerged from a



half-century of military rule in 2011. But its transition to democracy has been marred by sectarian violence that has left more than 240 people dead and sent another 240,000 fleeing their homes, most of them Rohingya. In 1982, Myanmar passed a citizenship law recognizing eight races and 130 minority groups – but omitted the nation's 800,000 Rohingyas.

Makkah, SAUDI ARABIA - Standing tall at just over 600 metres, the Abraj Al-Bait Tower, also known as Makkah Royal Clock Tower, has been declared the second tallest building in the world by the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat. Only Burj Khalifa in Dubai, which is 828 metres high, surpasses the Makkah Clock Tower in height. Makkah Clock Tower already holds several world records. It is the tallest clock tower in the world and has the world's largest clock face.

Dubai, UAE - Saudi Arabia is the second largest Islamic finance economy globally with assets worth \$270 billion, Thomson Reuters said in a new report launched at the Global Islamic Economy Summit in Dubai. The Kingdom also has the largest Islamic banking market with total assets of \$217 billion. Globally, Malaysia dominates the Islamic finance market with total assets worth \$412 billion.

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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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