NEWS BRIEFS

Various news bits from Muslim Communities in North America, Europe and other Parts of the world Submitted by our Team of Local, National and International Correspondents

Project Update

Further to the update provided in the previous issue of Al-Hagg, the quotations were received by five different architectural companies. The quotes were for a two level structure, with a total area of 26,000 square Due to the amended cost, the IHS is feet, as per the design drawn by Sr. Fatima Jahanmiri, assisted by Dr. Akram Al-Attar. Quotes ranged from ground breaking, so that a debt is \$3.7 million to almost \$7 million. The Executive Committee met shortly thereafter and concluded that the size was deemed too large for the immediate needs of the IHS and community. Thus, Sr. Fatima was requested to re-design a smaller structure, and design in such a way that would allow for easy extension in the future, as and when the need arises. Sr. Fatima agreed to prepare another drawing by early January, to be reviewed by the Executive.

The building will still have the Masjid, Husainiyyah (Main Hall), Ghusy Mayyit (Burial Shroud and Washing) room, IHS Offices, Wudhu (Ablution) and washrooms, Zari Donors in the United Kingdom may room, and small kitchen on the main floor; Madresa classrooms, board room, cafeteria, visiting Scholar quarters, Library, and storage on the upper floor.

trying to ensure that at least \$1 million is available at the time of not incurred. Presently, there is \$200,000 available, and the \$1.1 million land cost has been paid off. Readers of Al-Haqq are requested to support the IHS in this project, and encourage their family and friends to do the same. All leading Mara'ja have permitted the usage of Khums Sahme Imam (AS) towards IHS work, and a tax receipt as well as receipt from the office of the respective Marj'a will be provided for religious funds.

Donors in United Kingdom and the Comfort USA can contribute to Al Murtaza Attn: IHS Building Project Islamic Foundation and Comfort Aid International ,respectively under our reciprocal agreement with them.



Islamic Humanitarian Service

send their contributions to:

For the donors in UK and Europe Al Murtaza Islamic Foundation. : **IHS Building Project**

P.O.Box 1666 Croydon London CR9 IUN UK

For the donors in USA

Aid International

3415 West Lake Mary Blvd #954152 Lake Mary FL 32795 USA

Review Of International Projects

All international projects supported by the IHS are to be kept on hold effective January 1, 2015, for a minimum of seven months. The Executive Committee is in the process of reviewing the policies and procedures in place for the work undertaken in poor parts of the globe, and ensuring that all such projects concur with the goals of the IHS, and are in compliance with Canadian charity laws. In the meantime, donors are requested not to send funds for international projects to the IHS, until an announcement is made. Local, domestic, and national undertakings are not affected. In addition, Khums and other religious dues may still be remitted to the IHS. IHS thanks all donors for their understanding, and all recipient charities for their patience.

Since its formation over two decades ago, the IHS has never deducted any service charges or commissions from money received for charitable projects.

10th Interfaith Luncheon

Participants from many faith traditions, local, provincial and federal political leaders, and individuals from across Ontario gathered at the tenth interfaith sponsored by the Islamic Humanitarian Service, in cooperation with Interfaith Grand River, on Wednesday December 10, 2014. The theme, "Confronting Oppression", was appreciated by those attending, in light of current world issues. Waterloo Region's Deputy Chief of Police, Office Kevin Chalk, acknowledged the fact the theme indicates that something must be done, contrary to just' opposing oppression'. The keynote speaker, Hujjatul Islam Sayyid Moustafa Qazwini, of Los Angeles California, spoke passionately about the subject, and informed the audience of his own experiences suffering oppression under Iraqi tyrant Saddam, and how dozens of family members were brutally killed.

Following recitation of the Holy Qur'an, and Canada's national anthem, IGR members each read a passage from their scriptures to begin the program.

Representatives from a number of agencies with whom the IHS deals with on a regular basis were in attendance, including Scotiabank, KW Multicultural Centre, Academy of Learning Islam, Waterloo Wellington Jamaat.









Youth Employment Opportunity

A number of youths will be employed by the IHS during the summer time, July-August 2015, for various tasks around the IHS Centre. Those interested are invited to submit their resumes, along with any references to the IHS Office on Hollinger Crescent, or by email at ihs786@muslimyouth.ca.

Opportunities include Camp Leaders, Office Clerks, Preparing and Compiling Newsletter, Filing, and other tasks.

Head of Iran Assembly of Experts Ayatollah Mahdavi Kani passes away at 83 Courtesy of Press TV

Chairman of Iran's Assembly of Experts Ayatollah Mohammad-Reza Mahdavi Kani has passed away following a months-long coma. The 83-year-old veteran politician died in a hospital in the capital city of Tehran on Tuesday morning. Ayatollah Mahdavi Kani had gone into a coma on June 4 due to a major heart attack.

He was elected as the chairman of the Assembly of Experts in March 2011. The highranking body of experts elects and oversees the activities of the leader of the Islamic Rev-



Late Chairman of the Iranian Assembly of Experts Ayatollah Mohammad-Reza Mahdavi Kani

The senior Iranian official was also a founder and the leader of the Combatant Clergy Association, a prominent religious, cultural and political foundation formed with the objective of protecting the achievements of Iran's Islamic Revolution.

Ayatollah Mahdavi Kani was a close ally of the founder of the Islamic Republic, the late Imam Khomeini, and played a key role in events that culminated in the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

He also took up several important posts after the revolution, including the interior minister in the cabinet of second Iranian President Mohammad-Ali Rajai and member of several key government committees and councils.

The prominent cleric has written several books on a wide range of religious and scientific issues and was the founder and chairman of renowned Imam Sadeq University, which specializes in humanities.

Iran's President has announced two days of national mourning over the senior cleric's death.



A member of the Assembly of Experts Ayatollah Mohammadi Gilani

Ayatollah Mohammad Mohammadi Gilani

Courtesy of tehrantimes Volume. 12169 A member of the Assembly of Experts, passed away in a hospital in Tehran on Wednesday. He was hospitalized for pulmonary disease for nearly three months . Ayatollah Mohammadi Gilani was a former member of the Guardian Council, former judge of Tehran's Islamic Revolutionary Court, and the then chief justice of the supreme court of Iran. President Hassan Rouhani, Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani, and the board of directors of the Assembly of Experts issued separate condolence massages over the demise of the ayatollah. The funeral of Grand Ayatollah Mohammadi-Gilani was held in the holy city of Qom on 12th of the holy month of Ramadhan at the age of 86. He passed away on July 9th (Ramadhan 11th).

Fruitful Year Says USCEO Organizer

According to Ms. Anna Baltzer, National Organizer with the US Campaign to End Israeli Occupation, the year 2014 has been a successful one, with many firms and individuals realizing the atrocities committed by the occupiers of Palestine. Ms. Baltzer cites the example of Soda Stream, a supporter of the Zionist state, whose profits have fallen significantly, as a result of the divestment campaign. In addition, Hollywood actress Ms. Scarlett Johansson, an ambassador with Soda Stream with ties to charity Oxfam, had to step down with Oxfam since the two could not be compatible. During the year, the Campaign met with dozens of US Congressional staffers to brief them on the situation in Palestine, ensuring that the information reaches out to the political leaders. An effort is underway to plant 2000 olive trees, of which 659 have already been achieved.

Contributions can be made on the websire, www.endtheoccupation.org.

Siege in North Iraq, Syria

Foreign terrorists, claiming a Caliphate in the northern part of Iraq and Syria, have continued their massacres in numerous cities, of civilians, not even sparing children and the elderly. The group, commonly known as ISIS or ISIL, have undertaken an ethnic cleansing agenda, primarily targeting Shias, Christians, Azidis, and even Sunnis who don't identify with their strange version of Islam.

have suffered and had to flee from their homes in the northern areas, the IHS has been working with people on the ground to provide support and assistance.



The Present situation . They are in their tents freezing



IGR November Meeting

2014 November's monthly Interfaith Grand River meeting was held at St. Michael's Church, near Waterloo's two Universities, attended by students from Wilfrid Laurier University. The gathering, held on the second Thursday of each month, welcomed students of Dr. Meena Sharifi-Funk, who makes it a point to participate once a year at an IGR meeting. This year, the topic was dealing with appropriation from other faiths, what is right and not.

In an effort to assist the homeless and the victims who Usual IGR meetings have been held at the Carizon Counselling centre in downtown Kitchener, but Steering Committee member Ms. Sandy Milne announced that the room used by IGR will no longer be available in 2015. Rev. Dr. Brice Balmer suggested the Grand River community Centre which has a boardroom that can be used.

> At the January monthly meeting, Waterloo Region Police Chief Mr. Bryan Larkin has been invited to speak about community safety and how to help police officer be more sensitive to faith communities.

I.H.S. Executive Committee



Br.Sultan (C) the Executive Director, left Br.Sajid Marhon ,Br.Ruhullah Amiri , right Br.Murtaza Ali ,Br.Habiballah Mahbobi.

Al-Murtaza Foundation Registered

Following the submission of their application, UK's Inland Revenue registered Al-Murtaza Foundation as a charitable foundation in the country. Registration allows the charity to benefit from a number of programs. Donors can contact Al-Murtaza Foundation on their website http://www.almurtaza.co.uk/

> Or by writing to :Al-Murtaza Foundation P.O.Box 1666 Craydon London CR6 IUN UK

GHADIR -E-KHUMM

LOCATION OF GHADIR-E-KHUMM



The map shown is the map of Arabia. Ghadir is on the way from Mecca to Madina. While returning from Mecca to Madina, after the last hajj, alongwith his companions, the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) broke the journey at a lake, 3 miles away from Al-Johfa. He (S.A.W) halted at midday in a wayside tract of barren land with no shade other than that provided by a few acacia trees. A small lake is called as Ghadir in Arabic, so this place is known as Ghadir-e-Khumm. The name Ghadir is no longer in use.

WHAT HAPPENED AT GHADIR-E-KHUMM?

Tabarani and others have recorded the following tradition as related by Zayd ibn 'Arqam and transmitted through sources unanimously acknowledged to be reliable. Zayd says that the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings and peace be upon him and his posterity, delivered a sermon at Ghadir-e-Khumm under a cloth spread as a canopy on two large trees. He said:

"O my people! I am going to be recalled shortly and I must comply. I shall be interrogated and you also shall be interrogated. What will you say then?" The entire audience answered: "We shall bear witness that you did convey to us the message of Allah, and tried your best to guide us on the right path and always gave us good console. May Allah bless you with a good reward." The Prophet proceeded: "Why do you not bear witness that there is no god but Allah and that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger, and that Paradise is true, Hell is true, Death is true, Resurrection after death is true, that the Day of Judgment will doubtlessly come and that Allah will raise to life the dead from their graves?." They said: "O Yes! We bear witness to all this." Then he said: "O

Allah! You also Then he said: 'O lah is my Mawla of the faithful and right on and conlives. And this Ali all those of whom Allah! Love him and hate him who further said: "O my precede you and arrive at the pool pool wider than between Basrah there are on the goblets of silver as you shall reach me gate you about towards the two sets after my



may witness." my people! Aland I am mawla I have superior trol over their is the mawla of I am mawla. O who loves him hates him." He people! I will you also shall of Kawthar, the the distance and San'a', and pool as many stars. When I shall interroyour behavior in-valuable asdeath. The ma-

jor asset is the Book of Allah, the Mighty and Glorious, one end of which is in the hand of Allah, the Exalted, and the other end of which in your hands. Grasp it tightly and do not go astray and do not change or amend it. The other asset is my Progeny, who are my Ahl al-Bayt. Allah the Gracious and Omniscient has informed me that the two will not part from each other before they reach me at the pool.

WHEN & IN FRONT OF HOW MANY MUSLIMS?

This Ghadir-e-Khumm event happened on the 18th of Dhil-Hijjah (1410 AH), in 10 Hijra in front of nearly one hundred thousand (100,000) Muslims. While returning from the last hajj (Hajjatul-wida / farewell pilgrimage) of our Holy Prophet (S.A.W.).

An Introduction to Ziyarat BY SALEEM BHIMJI

[This introduction has been extracted from the recent publication of the Islamic Publishing House (<u>www.al-mubin.org</u> / <u>www.iph.ca</u>) entitled LOVE FOR THE FAMILY. It will be available soon via PDF and Android APP for a nominal price.

We must also realize that all of the people who work in the shrine complex do so as volunteers – from the people who take our shoes and safeguard them, to those who direct the traffic flow, to the sweepers and cleaners, to those who serve food – all of them do this simply for the love and hope of gaining proximity to Allah (Glory and Greatness be to Him), as He says in the Qur'an:

"...And whoever venerates the sacraments of God —indeed that arises from the God wariness of hearts."

18. Bidding Farewell: It is with a heavy heart that we separate ourselves from the shrines as we begin to make our way back home – sometimes thousands of kilometers away.

Who knows if we will ever have the means to make this journey again?

Therefore, before we leave the city, our final stop should not be the bazaar, gold market or any other place, but rather the shrine and the holy personality buried there. We need to truly bid farwell to them and pray for the opportunity to visit again and that our actions are accepted by the Most High, and that we are able to benefit from this visitation.

As an example, when we depart from Abi 'Abdillah al-Husayn B, the supplication to be read for bidding farewell shows that our visit should have made an impact in our daily lives once we leave the sacred shrine:

أَللْهُمَّ إِنِي أَسْأَلُكَ بَعْدَ الصَّلاةِ وَالتَّسْلِيمِ أَنْ تُصَلِّي عَلَىٰ مُحَمَّد وَآلِ مُحَمَّد وَآنِ لَا تَجْعَلَهُ آخَرِ الْعَهْد مِنْ زِيَارِقِ إِيَّاهُ فَإِنْ جَعَلْتَهُ يَا رَبِّ فَاَحْشُرُنِي مَعَهُ وَمَعَ الْتَهُ وَأُولِيَّآثِهِ وَأَوْلِيَّآثِهِ وَإِنَّ أَبُقَيْتَنِي يَا رَبِّ فَارْزُقْنِي الْعَوْدَ إِلَيْهِ ثُمَّ الْعَوْدَ إلَيْهِ بَعْدَ الْعُودَ إلَيْهِ بَعْدَ الْعُودَ إلَيْهِ بَعْدَ الْعُودَ إلَيْهِ بَعْدَ الْعُودَ إلَيْهِ بَعْدَ وَكَلَّ اللَّهُمَّ الْعَوْدَ وَلَيْ اللّهُ مَصَّدَ وَآلَ مُحَمَّد وَلَا تَشْغَلْنِي عَنْ وَحَبْبُ إِلَيُّ مَشَاهِدَهُمْ أَلَلُهُمَّ صَلًا عَلَى مُحَمَّد وَآلَ مُحَمَّد وَلَا تَشْغَلْنِي عَنْ وَكُلِّ اللّهُ اللّهُ اللّهُ اللّهُ اللّهُ اللّهُ اللّهُ وَعُلْلاً مَدْرِي هَمْهُ وَأَعْطَنِي ذٰلِكَ عَنَى عَنْ وَرَالِخَلْقِكَ وَبِلَاغاً أَثَالُ بِهِ رِضَاكَ يَا رَحْمَنُ وَالسَّلامُ عَلَيْكُمْ يَا مَلاَئِكَةً الله وَرُوالَ قَبْر أَي عَبْد الله وَزُوَّارَ قَبْر أَي عَبْد الله وَزُوَّارَ قَبْر أَي عَبْد الله.

"O Allah! I plead to You, having prayed and saluted [Your Prophet], to bless Muhammad and the progeny of Muhammad, such that You do not make this the last time I visit his resting place; so if you deem it as such, O Allah, I then plead You to resurrect me and to gather me in his company and in that of his forefathers and obedient followers; and if You decree that I should remain alive, O Allah, then I plead You to grant me a return to him, then another return after a return, by Your mercy, O the most Merciful One. O Allah! Grant me a truthful a truthful tongue among Your servants, and endear to my heart to visit their shrines. O Allah! Bless Muhammad and the progeny of Muhammad and do not let me be distracted from mentioning Your Name by letting the many affairs of life in this world cause me to overlook the wonders of the glory of these shrines, nor should I be tested by the beautiful things of this life's adornments, nor by reduction of the labour of which harms my good deeds and the worry of which fills my heart. Grant me, O Allah, to be independent of the evildoers from among Your creations, and grant me wisdom through which I can win Your Pleasure, O most Merciful One. Peace be upon you, O angels of Allah, O visitors of the gravesite of Abi Abdillah."

"19. Leaving the Shrine: Just as we mentioned in the etiquette of entering the shrine, we need to ensure that we follow similar courtesies as we leave the shrine – running, talking about the material world and other such things must be refrained from as we leave the presence of these noble personalities whom we were visiting.

¹ Al-Qurllan, Suratul Ḥajj (22), verse 32

20. Helping the Needy: As we walk out of the shrine back into the streets and the everyday hustle and bustle of the world, we need to ensure that if we run into any needy people who are begging for food or money that we do not turn our backs on them.

The one whom we have just visited would never have denied a poor person even a morsel of food, and if we have just completed their *ziyarat*, what better way to show a change in our character than to follow their example and to help the less fortunate that we encounter.

The Noble Qur'an mentions the charity of the family of the Prophet as follows:

(يُوفُونَ بِٱلنَّذْرِ وَيَخَافُونَ يَوْماً كَانَ شَرُّهُ مُسْتَطِيراً وَيُطْعِمُونَ ٱلطَّعَامَ عَلَىٰ حُبِّهِ مِسْكِيناً وَيَتِيماً وَأُسِيراً إِنَّمَا نُطْعِمُكُمْ لِوَجْهِ ٱللهِ لاَ نُرِيدُ مِنكُمْ جَزَاءً وَلاَ شُكُوراً(

"They fulfill their vows and fear a day whose ill will be widespread. They give food, for the love of Him, to the needy, the orphan and the prisoner, [saying,] 'We feed you only for the sake of God. We do not want any reward from you nor any thanks." ²

Once we have been able to "complete the ziyarat" by ensuring that these 20 steps have been realized then we should know and realize for ourselves that all of the actions that we have done – including the actual *ziyarat*, should result in an inner change in our character and nature; and this should be apparent in us at every stage of our lives after this great journey.

²Al-Qur'an, Suratul Insan (76), verses 7-9

To be continued in next issue of Al-haqq



Arbaeen 2014 Underway - The Largest Gathering in World

The largest gathering in the world
The biggest annual gathering
Longest continuous dining table
Largest number of people fed for free
Largest group of volunteers serving a single event

These are some records that must be registered in the Guinness Book for Arbaeen .All of these are under the imminent threat of suicide bombing and ISIS in Iraq.

About 20 million Muslims from about 10 days before, started a march towards the holy city of Karbala to be over there for Arbaeen_2014. The 40th day after the Day of Ashura, on which Imam Hussain made his stand against injustice and tyranny. The 40th day, known as Arbaeen, symbolises the eternal victory of his selfless stand.

Last year about 18 million pilgrims visited the holy shrine of Imam Hussein (AS) in Arbaeen. Karbala is the city in where Imam Hussein (AS), the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), and his companions were martyred in 61 AH. Unfortunately western news channels close their eyes on such important annual event, just because it may spread the culture of Islam and specially Shia... But as <u>Holy Quran</u> says, they can't do so:

"يريدون ليطفئوا نور الله بأفواههم والله متم نوره ولو كره الكافرون"

"They want to extinguish the light of Allah with their mouths, but Allah will perfect His light, although the disbelievers dislike it."









Amongst the pilgrims are a group of Christians who visited Hussain's shrine to pay their respects and remember the sacrifice he made to preserve the very moral fabric of society

This gathering is amongst the world's largest most peaceful gatherings ever. Hussain's legacy, lives on.

www.WhoIsHussain.org









The Martyrdom Marwan Majid Al-Saadi Story

The capture of Baiji from ISIS is a significant development of the war, perhaps the most significant so far.

For the first time since ISIS captured Mosul the Iraqi army displayed a capability to fight using guerrilla warfare. This is crucial as this is the only way to defeat ISIS militarily. In neighboring Syria, the Syrian Army lost 150,000 soldiers, but it is now a better fighting force as they retrained the remaining 150,000 soldiers to fight using guerrilla tactics.

In Baiji the Iraqi army fought ISIS street by street, house by house. Yet despite this there are no reports of 'Shi'a militias slaughtering Sunnis', as some media outlets have predicted.

14 Nov The Iraqi army successfully removed ISIS from the city of Baiji, north of Tikrit, and broke ISIS' fivemonth siege on Baiji's refineries, Iraq's biggest refineries.



As a result of this liberation many young martyrdoms sacrifices themselves to protect Iraq .One of them was Al-Shaheed Marwan Majid al-Saadi who fought very bravely against ISIS and scared them and they called him "Ibn Al-Emara" as he is from this city .But Unfortunately the Iraqi Government and the Ministry of Defence still didn't get his remains back from the desert of Al-Seinieya in the city of Baiji since the date of third of October 2014 to his family . *Continued in next issue of Al-haqq*



Amaals for the Quick Recovery

- 1. Surah Fath
- 2. Dua-e-Mashlool
- 3. Tasbeeh of Ammay Yujibu
- 4. Dua Maqatil Bin Sulayman (See attached)
- 5. Ziyarat of Ashura

Imam Zamana Amaal

• 2 Rakaat Namaaz, niyat Hajaat

After namaaz completed, put right hand on head and with left hand do the following tasbeeh (if using Khakhe Shafa tasbeeh, switch hands):

- 11 times Salwaat
- 100 times Allahuma Farij Ya Sahebuzamaan, Farij Alayna Ya Sahebuzamaan, Alaan Alaan
 Alaan
- 11 times Salwaat
- Then go into Sajdah and ask for Hajaat.



Amaal of kun fayakun (Surah #2 Al Baqarah - part of Ayat 117)

Pray 4 Rakaats with one salaam (not in sets of two)

1st rakaat

After Surah-al-Hamd, 100 X Wa ufawwizu amri ilallah (Surah # 40 Al Ghafir - part of ayat 44)

وَأُفَوَّضُ أَمْرِيٓ إِلَى ٱللَّهِ And I entrust my affair to Allah. وَأُفَوِّضُ أَمْرِيٓ إِلَى ٱللَّهِ

2nd rakaat

After Surah al Hamd, 100 X Nasrun minallahi wa fathun qareeb

(Surah #61 As-Saff - part of ayat 13)

Help from Allah and a victory near at hand.

نَصۡرٌ مِّنَ ٱللَّهِ وَفَتۡحٌ قَريبُ ۖ

3rd rakaat

After Surah- al-Hamd, 100 X Ala ilallahi tuseerul umoor (Surah # 42-Ash-shura - part of ayat 53)

Surely to Allah do all affairs eventually come.

4th rakaat

After Surah al Hamd, 100 X Inna fatahna laka fathan mubeen

(Surah # 48 Al Fath - Ayat 1)

Surely, We have given to you a clear victory (O Mohamed) (إِنَّا فَتَحْنَا لَكَ فَتْحًا لَكَ فَتْحًا

Finally after salaam (without talking to anyone) Recite 100 X Astaghfirullah (I seek forgiveness)

Then go into sajdah & ask for your hajaat



Nahjul Balagha and Health

Submitted to Al-Haqq Newsletter By Ali Irfan

Nahjul Balagha is full of gems – gems relating to almost every field of life: theology, philosophy, cosmology, history, physical sciences, biological sciences, social sciences, medicine. In this article, we propose to explore one field – that of human health, in the light of sayings from Nahjul Balagha.

Islam does not condone neglect of the health of mind and body. Studying Nahjul Balagha, we find that some of Imam Ali's sayings present two features of Islamic approach to health.

One of these two features can be summarized in the age old saying: prevention is better than cure. Islamic teachings warn people against overeating, against eating certain kinds of foods and drinks and against performing certain actions. These warnings are there to help us preserve our health. For example, Hazrat Ali says:

"Guard against cold in its seasonal beginning and welcome it towards its end because it effects bodies in the same way as it effects plants. In the beginning, it destroys them but in the end, at springtime, it gives them fresh leaves."

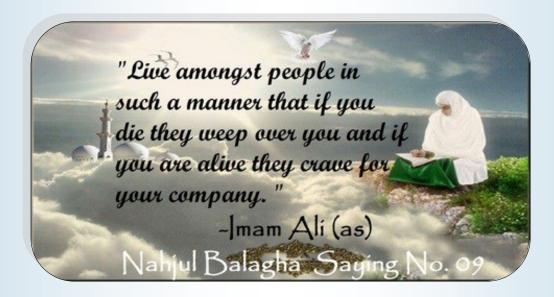
The second feature of Islamic approach to health is to create a balance between the mental and the physical health. Islam makes us realize that physical health is connected with mental health. In this light, let us take a look at two sayings of Hazrat Ali.

Hazrat Ali said: "Keep walking in your sickness as long as you can."

Medical science concurs that psychosomatic illness is a fact. Unless a person is seriously ill, giving importance to the sickness affects the feelings of the sick person negatively and increases the sickness. On the other hand, ignoring the sickness, continuing normal activities and regarding oneself well acts positively on the body and dispels sickness.

At another place, Imam Ali said: "Health of body comes from absence of envy." Feelings and emotions are part of the mind and this saying once again shows the link of the body with the mind.

In conclusion, Nahjul Balagha shows that health of body and mind is very important for a human, and this can be achieved by following the precepts of Islam.



Women in Islam

Submitted to Al-Haqq Newsletter by Ali Irfan

There are several misconceptions among people, particularly in the West, about women's place in Islam.

Let me try to put these misconceptions in the form of questions and try to answer them as briefly as possible.

1. Is there equality among men and women in Islam?

Yes. There is absolutely no difference between a man and a woman in Islam in terms of humanity and honor. The Holy Quran, in verse 124 of chapter 4 says: "Whoever, be it a male or a female, does good deeds and he or she is a believer, then they will enter the Paradise."

The misconception comes when equality is taken as synonymous to similarity. Islam believes that man and woman are equal but dissimilar. Hence exactly the same set of rules cannot be applied to both men and women, which is quite reasonable. Ever try to cook fish and beef by following exactly the same procedure? You would be messing up at least one of them.

Islam looks at the different roles of men and women in society not as superior or inferior but as complementary. Islamic laws are there to protect this balance.

2. What is this about the hijab, modest dress and head covering? Isn't it degrading to women?

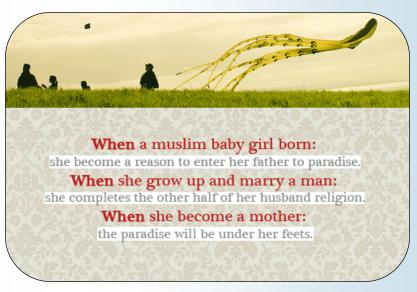
Well, just close your eyes and visualize a woman in a modest dress with her head covered. Now visualize another woman in a totally revealing dress. Tell me honestly which of these images is more degrading to women?

3. What about men? Shouldn't they be enjoined to wear modest dress?

Of course. Islam tells men not to bare even their upper body in public. Again, there is difference in degrees based on the dissimilarities between the two sexes.

4. What about this thing about divorce? It is said that if a man just says "I divorce you", three times, the woman is considered divorced, whereas the woman doesn't have recourse to this kind of divorce.

This is another misconception for which unfortunately some of the Muslims are responsible. There are some sects in Muslims which cater to this kind of doctrine but not all. Many of the Muslims consider this kind of divorce un-Islamic. The Shiites particularly refute this process of divorce. In Shiite doctrine, divorce is a complicated procedure where you need proper justification, two witnesses who are known to be just and fair, etc. Just pick any Shiite book of jurisprudence (a lot of them are available in



English and some of them are even available on the Net - check out the site: www.al-islam.org) and you can verify the truth of my statement.

Al-Haqq Newsletter Correspondents

Readers are encouraged to provide important news stories and Islamic articles that would be of interest to all of the readers of al-Haqq throughout the world to the correspondent nearest you. If there are none in your vicinity and you would like to serve in this capacity, then please contact the Editor. The editorial address is located on the inside front cover of this issue.

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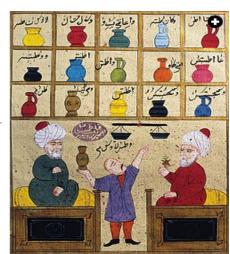
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<u>Islamic Medicine</u> By: *Hasan Ghaznawi*, *M. D.*

Collateral circulation plays a major role in decreasing the danger of heart attack in patients. Patients above 55 years of age in which this type of circulation is developed have less severe attacks. It is possible to speed up the development of collateral circulation by regular and balanced exercises which is present in the prayers are not only potent, preventive measure against coronary heart diseases but also help in the development of collateral circulation in those people who have already suffered from a heart attack or are prone to it.

Heart patients should offer-the five obligatory prayers regularly as they get the permission from their doctor to leave bed.

The arrangement of prayers is such that those at the time of empty stomach are brief but those after meals are longer and give more exercise to the body.



During the month of Fast (Ramadan) the additional twenty Rakaat (Tarawih) are added to the late evening prayers because more than normal food is usually consumed after breaking fast.

The performance of prayers put almost all muscles of the body in action. Different groups of muscles are activated while performing prayers. During Sajda blood supply to the brain is improved. One of the useful methods to strengthen the muscles of the knee joints to mitigate the strain on knees in osteo arthritis is the regular exercise of these muscles during prayers.

HEART:

This vital organ of the body has to be always healthy and efficient as it is responsible for the circulation of blood. Diseased heart results in deterioration of the healthy body. This knowledge we obtained after centuries of scientific research yet it was simply told to us fourteen hundred years ago by our great Prophet (peace be upon him).

"Verily in the body there is such apiece of flesh that if it remains alright the whole body keeps well but if this piece of flesh develops some defect the whole body becomes unhealthy. Behold, - this piece of flesh - it is heart." (Bokhari, Muslim ...)

SIESTA:

It was the habit of our blessed Prophet to sleep for a while after lunch, his companions also followed this practice. This short nap gives relief to the vital organs of the body like heart and brain.

MODERATION IN FOOD:

Both Qur'an and Hadith have touched this topic, Qur'an tells us in Ayah 30 of Sura Al Airaf:

"O children of Adam, look to your adornment of every place of worship and eat and drink but not prodigal Lo! He loved not the prodigals."

Strengthening this order, the Prophet has strictly forbidden over eating in the following Haith:

"It is enough to eat few morsels of food to keep one's back straight."

"If you must eat more, be sure that only one third of your stomach is filled with food, one third is left for water and the remaining one third for air."

"A Muslim eats in one intestine (stomach) whereas a non believer eats in seven intestine." It has been proved beyond doubt that over eating is the root of many diseases and also responsible for premature senility. It produces obesity, predisposes to dangerous diseases like diabetes, hypertension, coronary heart disease and paralysis.

To be continued in next issue of Al-Haqq

Mohammed, a Prophet by birth

http://welcometoshiaislam.blogspot.ca/2012/12/shia-view-mohammed-prophet-by-birth.html

Shia Muslims believe Mohammed is Prophet and Messenger of God like any other Muslim believes, but still there is great difference between this belief of Shia and other Muslims.

Shia believe Prophet Mohammed was a Prophet even when he was born. Rather Shia Muslims believe Prophet Mohammed was Prophet even before creation, when God had created just his 'Noor' (Divine Luminescence).

This is what differentiate Shia belief from other's belief. Since, Most Sunni (Ahlul Sunna) believe Prophet Mohammed was gifted with prophet-hood and messenger-ship at age of forty, in the cave of Hira. Shia deny any such ideas. Shia collection of hadith (anthology) declare Prophet Mohammed as first creation of God that too as a Prophet and Messenger, even before any other creation existed. Prophet Mohammed is reported to have said:

Among all the creations of God, my 'Noor' (Divine Luminescene) was first to be created.

Shia hadith also report Prophet Mohammed to have said:

Adam was still midst water and mud while I was Prophet.

So called Muslim scholars (ignorant) of other sects had always accused Shia of blasphemy to degrade Shiadom in eyes of layman Muslims that Shia Muslims believe that prophet-hood had came for Ali but Archangel Gabriel got confused between Mohammed and Ali, and thinking Mohammed was Ali conferred prophet-hood on Mohammed instead of Ali. For Shia this is just a lie.

Shia consider Angels to be free from error (immaculate) thus no reason left for Gabriel to have made an error. Secondly, Shia never believe prophet-hood could be conferred upon because Shia belief states that prophets are created as prophets, they are prophet even when they are born.

Ahlul-Sunna have been questioning Shia that if Prophet Mohammed was born prophet what happened at cave of Hira? Didn't Prophet got scared from Gabriel? And various other funny questions.

Shia believe Prophet Mohammed never got scared from Archangel Gabriel. Shia believe Prophet Mohammed never got idea of prophecy being conferred on him from Waraqa son of Naufil as Sunnis claim. Shia state Prophet Mohammed always knew he was Prophet, even before any other creation existed.

So what happened at Hira, a big question? Shia belief states that Prophet Mohammed was awaiting the Divine command of God to declare his prophet-hood. Archangel Gabriel bought the command of God to Prophet Mohammed that: O Prophet Mohammed time has come for you to declare your prophet-hood and messenger-ship. Prophet Mohammed happily received the command which he too was desperately waiting for and thenceforth declared that: He is a Prophet.

A very interesting inquiry which should be made from Sunnis is since all Muslim believe Prophet Mohammed is superior to all humans, if this is believed and he became prophet at age of 40 years is also believed, can Sunnis answer Shia that what was status of Prophet Mohammed from his birth up to age of 40? If he was not a prophet he must have been an Ummati (follower) of previous prophet, in that case how can a follower of previous prophet be superior to all human including that previous prophet?

To be continued in page 20

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In The Name of The Almighty

The Honourable Scholar Sayyid Murtaza Al-Kashmiri, may his achievements continue,

As-Salamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah Wa Barakatoh

I ask Allah The Most High, The Omnipotent to always guide and support you.

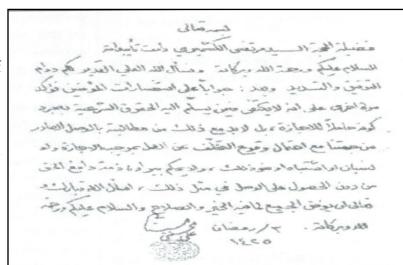
In response to inquiries from Momineen, we emphasize once again that paying Islamic dues to whoever holds an authorization (Ijaza) is not sufficient. A demand for a receipt issued by must be made [to the person receiving the

Islamic dues]. Bearing in mind that discrepancies in adhering to the Ijaza may occur either through forgetfulness, error or similar situations. A clear conscience by the payer (of Islamic dues) cannot be attained unless a receipt is obtained as above.

I ask Allah The Blessed The most High to grant everyone that which is good and beneficial.

Wassalamu alikum warahmatullah Wabarakatoh

Seal and signature of Ali Al-Hussaini as-Seestani



Dedications

This space is dedicated to readers of *Al-Haqq* and their family members who have passed away. Please recite Sura Fatiha for them and all Marhumeen

Those who would like to include names of their deceased in this section are requested to contact the Editorial Address stated in the inside front cover. There is no charge for this service.

Marhum Ayatollah Mahdavi Kani the head of Iran Assembly of Experts, Tehran, Iran.

Marhum Ayatollah Mohammad Mohammadi Gilani the member of the Assembly of Experts , Tehran, Iran.

Marhuma Nishat Sheraly(Virjee), Toronto, Canada

Marhum Alshahed Marooan Al-Saidei ,Al-Seneia ,Iraq.

Marhuma Fatima Sughra Tahir (Wife of Ali Tahir Sadiq), Najaf, Iraq.



Paid in Full...

By Saleem Bhimji (www.al-mubin.org)

"Every soul shall taste death, and you will indeed be paid your full rewards on the Day of Resurrection. Whoever is delivered from the fire and admitted to paradise has certainly succeeded. The life of this world is nothing but the wares of delusion." (Al-Qur'an, Surat Ale Imran (3), Verse 185)

When someone brings a plate of our favourite food to the table we employ many senses: we see the food with our eyes; we smell the food with our nose; if it is still piping hot, we may hear the sizzle of the food with our ears, depending on what the food is, we may even feel it with our hands - however none of these truly tell us what that food "is" until we "taste" it and our taste buds allow is to savour the food and the spices it has been cooked with. Thus, this (tasting) is one of the more powerful senses and it is indeed interesting that Allah uses this word to describe how we will "experience" death.

The next thing mentioned in this verse is death (.(Liptimal Death, as we know from the verses of the Qur'an, such as Surat al-Mulk (67), is a creation of Allah, where He has said: "He, who created death and life that He may test you [to see] which of you is best in conduct. And He is the All-Mighty, the All-Forgiving." (67:2) Death, from the Islamic point of view is not 'non-existence', but rather, it is a mere transfer from one world to another, and can be compared to the birth of a child and how it leaves the womb of its mother (one world) to come into this world. Allah then gives us a guarantee and says: "...and you will indeed be paid your full rewards on the Day of Resurrection." Once we leave this world and are in the next realm

that is when the true 'reward' and 'punishment' will be meted out. In essence this world is a plane which is "actions and no retributions" while the next world is the place of "retributions and no actions". In this verse, the word "be paid your full" (¿¿¿¿) refers to a complete payment – not partial, not incomplete or fractional, but rather a full, maximum and complete repayment for actions which were done in this temporal world. Yes it is possible that the good which a person does in this world may be rewarded somewhat while in this temporal realm, however the full and complete payment will not take place here; likewise it is possible that the evil which a person does here may also be remunerated with a form of punishment in this world, however the full chastisement awaits a person in the next realm.

The phrase "who is delivered" ((حزح) means 'to be torn away from something' or 'to be moved away from something' and therefore we understand from this word that: "Those who have been torn away or kept aside from making their way into the fires of hell and have been granted permission to enter paradise have achieved true success." It is almost as if the hellfire and all of its punishments have a strong gravitational pull upon us – and why should this not be the case when Satan, our sworn enemy has told us: "He said, 'By Your might, I will surely pervert them, except Your exclusive servants among them." (38:82-83)

Therefore, if we are able to pull ourselves out of the strong allure and attraction which hell and all of the paths which lead to it have, then we will have attained true salvation! Indeed, the path to hell is beautiful, "...But their hearts had hardened, and Satan had made to seem decorous to them what they had been doing." (6:43) So to leave a path which has been made attractive and alluring is a challenge, however not impossible; and we always need to keep in mind that Satan himself will declare his immunity from us and will petition to God that he is innocent from our actions: "When the matter has been decided, Satan will say, 'Indeed God made you a promise that was true and I [too] made you a promise, but I failed you. I had no authority over you, except that I called you and you responded to me. So do not blame me, but blame yourselves. I cannot respond to your distress calls, neither can you respond to my distress calls. Indeed I disavow your taking me for [God's] partner aforetime. There is indeed a painful punishment for the wrongdoers." (14:22)

When we look at the world around us, who can deny it is not full of "temptations"? The pleasures of the flesh, the allure of power and authority, the intoxication of wealth and all that it brings and so many other sins which are readily available – many today at the tips of our fingers! However as the Qur'an shows us, the one who is the truly successful one is the person who has managed to pull away from such temptations and vices and purify their lives and lead a path of righteousness.

God then closes off this verse with a reality of the life of this world that it is nothing more than a "temporary pleasure" (متاع الغرور)

With such a vivid display of death in the Qur'an, is it not time that we look into our hearts and begin to make a change of character so that we can ensure our success in this world and more importantly – the next!?

99:6 اليروا أعمالهم ليروا أعمالهم That Day, the people will depart separated [into categories] to be shown [the result of] their deeds.

فمن يعمل مثقال ذرة خيرا يره So whoever does an atom's weight of good will see it, 99:8

ومن يعمل مثقال ذرة شرّا يره And whoever does an atom's weight of evil will see it.



Mohammed, a Prophet by birth

How funny it is to believe that he was under command (an Ummati) of the previous prophet and thus lower in status of that previous prophet (Ummati is lower in status than his prophet) and all of sudden at age of 40 became a prophet himself and got raised to highest status even higher that the status of the previous prophet who had been higher than him since last 39 years. Thus, Shia beliefs are precise, accurate and free from such errors. Shia also deny that Qur'an was revealed slowly on Prophet Mohammed for 23 long years, we believe whole Qur'an was revealed on Prophet Mohammed all at once in cave Hira, it was 23rd night of Ramadan 13 BH/611 AD which is called 'Lailatul Qadr' the night of power. Obvious question which Sunni people ask Shia as counter question is: then why Gabriel continued to come to Prophet for 23 years? Well, Qur'an was revealed all at once, but which verse was to be declared when was still kept under Divine order. God ordered Prophet Mohammed through Gabriel which verse was to be declared when and where this process continued for long 23 years.

1)Prophet Mohammed is first creation of God, his 'Noor' (Divine Luminescence) was first creation of God, he was made a prophet.

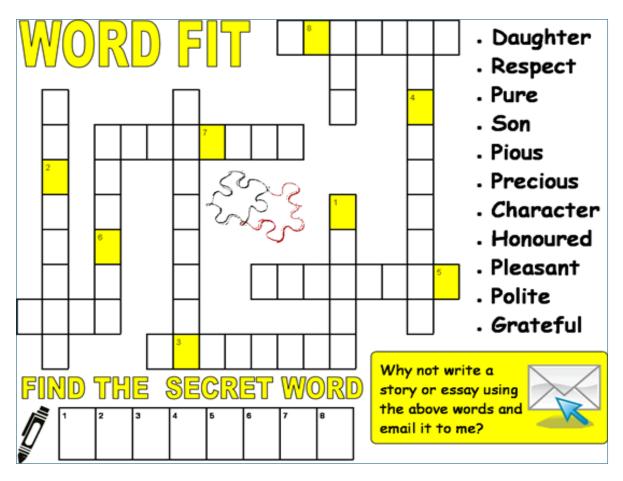
- 2) Prophet Mohammed never became a prophet at age of forty but had always been a prophet.
- 3) Prophet Mohammed never got scared from Archangel Gabriel.
- 4) Whole Qur'an was all at once revealed upon Prophet Mohammed on 23rd Ramadan 13 BH (611 AD) in cave of Hira.
- 5) Which verse was to be declared when and where was the reason why Gabriel continued to come to Prophet Mohammed on Divine orders for long 23 years.

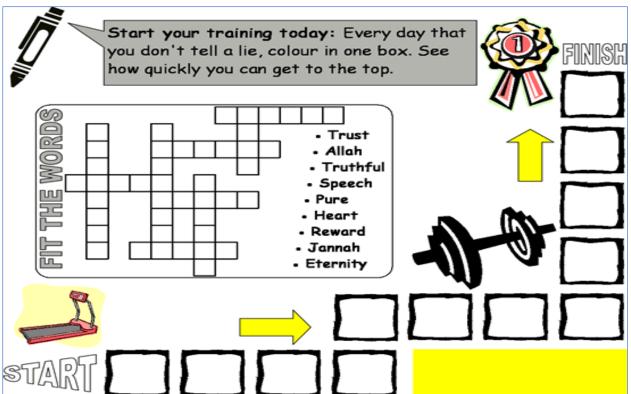
Peace and Salutations be upon Mohammed and Family of Mohammed.



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ROQUIYA'S KITCHEN

Submitted by Sr.Shama Murtaza

Pizza on Toast

Ingredients:

- 1. French bread (cut it diagonally) 1 big loaf
- 2. Cheddar cheese (shredded) 1 cup
- 3. Capsicums (sliced) 1
- 4. Button mushrooms (sliced) 5-6
- 5. Chicken sausages (sliced) 6
- 6. Oregano 1 tbsp.

ingredients for sauce:

- 1. Tomato puree 1 cup
- 2. Tomato Ketchup 3 tbsp.
- 3. Oil 1 tbsp.
- 4. Ginger garlic paste 1/2 tsp.
- 5. Salt 1/2 tsp.
- 6. Red chilli crushed 1/2 tsp.
- 7. Black pepper powder 1/4 tsp.



Method for sauce:

- Heat oil in a pan.
- Add ginger garlic paste.
- Fry for few seconds.
- Add tomato puree, tomato ketchup, salt, red chilli crushed and black pepper.
- Cook for 5-10 minutes till the sauce gets thick.
- Keep aside.

Method for Pizza on Toast:

- Cut the bread diagonally.
- Spread sauce on each slice.
- Put capsicums, mushrooms and sausages on top.
- Cover it with cheese.
- Sprinkle oregano.
- Bake in a preheated oven (150 centigrade) for 5-7 minutes.

Serve hot.

