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Ramadan

the beneficial "scorcher"!

Once more, the honourable guest, Holy Ramadan is with us. The word "Ramadan" comes from the Arabic root word denoting "scorching heat", "parched thirst", "intense dryness", "sun-baked ground", etc. Thus, Ramadan is named to indicate the burning sensation in the stomach as a result of hunger and the dryness of the throat due to thirst. Ramadan also "scorches out" the sins of the Muslim as if burning it to the ground. In another sense, the hearts and souls soak up the spiritual warmth of Ramadan, just as the sand and stones conduct the sun's heat. Heat is also used as a

medical treatment to remove and drive out toxins, cold and other harmful substances from the body. In a similar manner, the heat of Ramadan will expunge and "dry out" greed, arrogance, indifference and other spiritual maladies from the soul of man. Intense heat is also vital in the manufacturing processes of metals, plastic, glass, wood, etc. All of these are moulded into various products under scorching temperatures. Similarly, the heart of man is cast into a beautiful spiritual mould in the heat of the "crucible of Ramadan", thereby becoming a wonderful receptacle of piety and righteousness!

Tremendous benefits of fasting

Fasting is not a mindless exercise of torturing the body by remaining hungry and thirsty. It is extremely meaningful and produces tremendous benefits for the fasting person, some of which are summarised as follows:

- Increased Ibadah and devotion in Ramadan makes a Muslim feel closer to the Creator, and generate appreciation for all His provisions; food, water, etc. as a boon and blessing from Him.
- By becoming more charitable in this month, feelings of generosity, soft heartedness and good-will

towards others are developed. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was more generous than the swift blowing winds in this month.

- Through self-control and the discipline of fasting, a Muslim develops tolerance, patience, contentment, good manners, kind words and good habits.
- Ramadan causes a change in life's routine, which results in healthy lifestyle habits - particularly with regard to diet, eating habits and less smoking.
- Because fasting is a collective activity, it creates a sense of

>>2

Annual Iftar Provision



Iftar arrangements are made for certain venues in the greater Durban area such as Lindelani, Westridge, Newlands East, etc where a genuine need exists. The Iftar is served as a complete meal that includes savoury platters and other delicacies. This is a great opportunity to feed the fasting and reap the rewards that are promised.

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The magnificent month...

Nabi ﷺ witnessed nine Ramadans after migrating from Makkah to Madinah. In the nine Ramadans some important events took place:

Fasting was made compulsory in the second year of Hijrah

Nabi ﷺ experienced six military expeditions; among them the Battle of Badr

Nabi ﷺ gave the hand of Faatimah (RA) in marriage to Ali (RA)

Nabi ﷺ married Hafsa bint Umar (RA) and Zainab bint Khuzaimah (RA)

Nabi ﷺ daughter Ruqaiya (RA) passed away

The major idols of the pagan Makkans i.e. Al lat, Manat and Sawa were destroyed

Masjid al Dhirar (Masjid of Mischief) was destroyed

Nabi ﷺ received delegations from a number of Arab tribes across the Arabian Peninsula

(Ma'a Rasul Fi Ramadaan by Shaikh Athiyah Muhammad Salim)

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belonging to the global family of Believers and strengthens family ties and Islamic brotherhood on a local level as well.

First hand sympathy with the poor and hungry

One of the outstanding benefits of fasting is that a Muslim experiences hunger and thirst, and thus personally identifies with the daily plight of the hungry and poor. In this way it generates a real and intense degree of sympathy and concern for the underprivileged who have so little to survive on. This in turn makes Muslims reach out to the poor and render them all forms of assistance. One who does not

experience this hunger cannot truly empathise with the poor and the hungry. Consequently, this has a bearing on the effectiveness of any relief programmes operated by such people.

Ramadan is a very special month, but it is important for the benefits of this month to remain throughout the year. The spirit of piety and spiritual elevation experienced in Ramadan should stay on during our "normal" lives in the prevailing eleven months. And when the spiritual batteries begin to weaken, again comes the next Ramadan to give a full charge! Ramadan Kareem to one and all and a happy and joyous Eid Mubarak in advance from all at Darul Ihsan!

by Mufti Zubair Bayat (Ameer, Darul Ihsan)

Discard all sin in Ramadan

There is no doubt that there is a steep increase of good deeds during the month of Ramadan. Muslims direct all their efforts in this direction. However there is some neglect in one aspect - the discarding of sin.

Focussing on good actions is indeed blessed, but discarding of sins is of greater importance. Especially during the state of fasting, one should refrain from all prohibitions. In fact this is the very objective and purpose of fasting.

Hazrat Hakeemul Ummat Maulana Thanwi (RA) states: "Discard all types of sins in the month of Ramadan, then, Insha Allah, the fast will be a mubarak (blessed)

fast, it will intercede on your behalf and it will become that fast for which Allah himself will grant you its recompense."

The month of Ramadan is one of the best opportunities to develop a link with Allah. To the extent that one achieves this bond with Allah, will conduct the remaining eleven months of the year. It has been narrated that the person whose Ramadan passes smoothly, his entire year will pass accordingly.

Thus, value these blessed days of Ramadan by focusing on obedience rather than laxity. Fulfil the rights due to your Creator as well as the rights of the creation. This is the demand and message of Ramadan.

A Mother in Ramadan

The Prophet ﷺ said: "Instruct your children to observe Salah when they are seven years old, and reprimand them if they do not observe it when they are ten years old and do not let them sleep in one bed." (Abu Dawood)

Islam has placed huge responsibility on a woman to mould the family environment. A woman is the queen of her home. She plays a pivotal role in educating, guiding and motivating her husband and children. She has a wonderful opportunity to create an environment in the home conducive to the teachings of Islam.

Allah Ta'ala has confined certain abilities to women. It is not incidental that child nurturing, compassion, endurance etc. are primarily feminine functions. Allah has given women the special talent and psychological capacity required to mould a child's mind. There is no substitute for a mother's love. Her patience and kindness, her willingness to sacrifice her own comforts, her natural affinity for children and her instinct of knowing the needs of her child are unique to her nature.

Ramadan is the most important month of the Islamic year. It is in this month that the family worships Allah Ta'ala collectively more fervently and with greater enthusiasm.



Here are a few ideas on how a mother can teach her children about Islam in Ramadan:

- Encourage children to recite Quran regularly every day even if it be a little. This will discipline them and make them love the Quran
- Encourage the smaller children to fast even for half a day or even an hour or two. This will build their confidence
- Let them perform salah together with the mother while she prays
- Teach them one new thing about Ramadan every day, eg. a dua, hadith, benefit of fasting and taraweeh, etc.
- Assign one of the children the responsibility for waking everyone up for suhoor and fajr. This will teach them the importance of suhoor and fajr

Ideally, both parents should play their role in using this opportune month to mould their own spiritual life and that of their children.

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World News

Desperate Rohingyas risk death to flee Burma

According to an estimate by International Organization for Migration (IOM) about 3,100 Rohingya refugees fled Burma and Bangladesh to land in Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand where they fell in the custody of respective governments. About 8,000 boatpeople were adrift in the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea, where they ran dangerously low on food and water.



which were 300 or 400 years old and converted them into Buddhist religious places. In the past three years, Buddhists have vandalized or completely demolished at least 80 mosques.

Rohingyas are not allowed to pray at dozens of other mosques in Burma. They are even barred from praying in public in many areas of the country.

In the past five or six years, at least 2,000 Rohingyas, including many little children, have died at sea or on land in Malaysia and Thailand while they were fleeing Burma, rights groups estimate.

"Death in the sea or elsewhere on the way to Malaysia would be less painful than dying in the hands of the Buddhist Rakhines and security forces in Burma, they say."

Although Rohingyas have lived in Burma's Rakhine state for many centuries, the Buddhist-dominated society identifies them as 'illegal immigrants' from Bangladesh. Following demands from the Buddhists, in 1982, Burma's then military government stripped the Rohingyas of their citizenship.

After the Rohingya turned stateless, persecution of the community began soaring in Burma. In recent years, especially since 2012, Rohingyas have been facing increased levels of pressure and persecution.

Rohingyas ran many successful businesses where most of the clients were Buddhist. Now in an organized way the Buddhists are shunning those Rohingya businessmen or they are being forced to close down their businesses.

The military government demolished some mosques in Burma

'2015 – The last stable year for Israel'

Tel Aviv - Activist groups in the region and the global movement for the campaign of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel are the main "strategic threats" facing Israel in 2015, a senior Israeli research centre has said.



The reason, they expected, was weakness of the Syrian army which lost control of most of the areas near Israel, leaving activists who are able to target Israel at any time. The paper listed 2015 as the 'last stable year for Israel'.

Retired Israeli General Amos Yadlin, the Head of Tel Aviv University's Institute for National Security Studies, and Kermit Valencia said in a paper that the repercussions of the situation in Syria could be disastrous for Israel.

Florida Masjid offers free medical services

Florida - Giving back to the community, a Debary Islamic centre in the US south-eastern state of Florida has opened a free health clinic to offer medical services for locally uninsured and needy people in the area. The free clinic, opened in May 2015, is based at Masjid Maryam, meaning, Mosque of Mary,



The clinic will have doctors who will be available to see patients on one Sunday a month. The clinic will also offer limited lab services and prescription assistance.

Americans Muslims have launched similar initiatives across the country.

In 2010, a group of Ohio doctors opened the Noor Community Clinic, offering free medical check-ups and counselling for people without

medical insurance or government help.

More than a decade since its establishment, University Muslim Medical Association (UMMA) is now serving about 16,000 US patients of all religious backgrounds.

In 1996, a group of American Muslim students, dissatisfied with the lack of Muslim involvement in solving America's social issues, launched the first full-time charitable clinic in the US.

World 'silent' when millions of Muslims killed

STANBUL - Turkey's head of religious affairs says humanity did not speak up when millions of Muslims around the world were killed.



The world has been silent about the killing of millions of people in the Muslim world, said Mehmet Gormez, Turkey's head of religious affairs.

"On one hand, (around) 12 million people have been massacred in the Islamic world in the last 10 years, and on the other hand, 12 people were brutally killed in Paris," Gormez said.

We saw people who did not speak up about the killing of millions show up at a rally against the murder of only 12 people, he added.

"The death of a human is the death of humanity," Gormez said. "There is no difference in brutal killings, whether in Damascus, Baghdad or Paris."

If the world does not react to all

killings and massacres in the same manner regardless of religion or location, then all humanity will be doomed, Gormez added.

All Muslims should condemn terror and violence and a livable world can be maintained after all pains and griefs are treated with compassion and justice, he added.

"Violence cannot be removed with violence and blood cannot be cleaned with blood," Gormez said. "The world's security cannot be maintained by oppressing beliefs." "Islam is permanent in Europe. It is not possible anymore to expel Muslims from Europe as if they are temporary migrants," he added.

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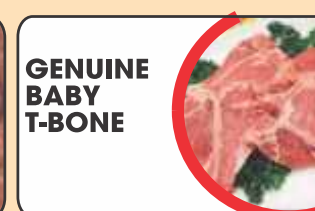
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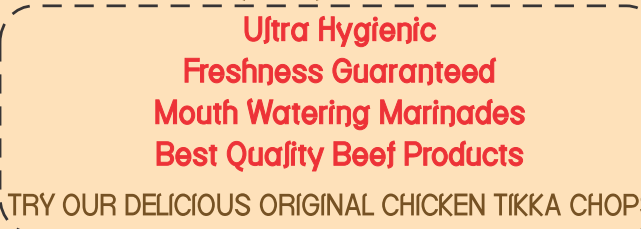
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Consideration for neighbours

On one occasion Mufti Muhammad Shafee (R) and Moulana Zaki Kayfi (R) visited their ustaad Moulana Asghar Husain (R) after the Maghrib salah. Moulana Asghar Husain (R) offered them mangoes, which Mufti Muhammad Shafee' (R) gladly accepted. He brought two baskets, one full of mangoes and the other one empty for throwing away the seeds and peels. When they had finished, Mufti Muhammad Shafee' (R) took the waste basket for disposal outside. Moulana Asghar Husain (R) asked him whether he knew how to dispose of the seeds and peels. Mufti Muhammad Shafee' (R) replied that it was a simple job, which did not require any training. Moulana Asghar Husain (R), however, took the basket from him and said, "This is a craft which needs to be learnt."

He separated the peels from the seeds and then he went outside and placed them at particular spots. On being asked about this he explained that many poor people lived in the vicinity. Upon the sight of a large heap of mango peels and seeds near

his house, they would grieve over their poverty and would feel sad that they do not have the means to purchase such luxury. Hazrat explained that he did not wish to be the means of bringing hurt and pain to their hearts. Therefore, he spread them out in small quantities at various spots.

Note: It should be noted that Moulana Asghar Saheb (R) perhaps hardly ate any mangoes. He offered these to his guests and the poor children of his neighbourhood. Even then he avoided placing heaps of mango peels and seeds near his house lest it might hurt them.

Some jurists recommend that eating out should be avoided, for it is witnessed and desired by the poor, and as they cannot afford it, this spectacle may hurt them. A devout person thinks of Allah Ta'ala even while doing mundane things, is always conscious of his obligations and is considerate towards the creation. (The Great Scholars of Deoband)

Excessive speech



A spiritual aspirant wrote: I have this problem that I talk too much. I indulge in useless discussion with friends / family and talking without thinking and realizing its effects and I am not able to control myself. Please guide me on how to control myself in this regard? Jazakallah

Hazrat Moulana Mohammad Taqi Usmani Sahib (MZ) replied: "This thing is very harmful on this tareeq (path of self-reformation). Stop yourself forcefully from talking more and only talk when required. Avoid useless discussions completely."

Meraj us Salikeen: Islahi Khutut



Modesty - the mainstay of a Muslim

There are two main reasons, among many, why immodesty is repugnant in Islam.

1. Whoever is devoid of modesty is deprived of human nobility itself and is rendered incapable of distinguishing the good from the evil. This is more succinctly understood from the Hadith: 'When your sense of shame is lost, you will do whatever you want.' (Bukhari)

Since modesty becomes a barrier against sin and vice, being devoid of modesty undoes the safety belt and makes one vulnerable to committing the criminal act. Therefore, Rasulullah ﷺ has impressed on shame and modesty as an integral component of Imaan.

2. Immodesty is the chief cause of criminal behaviour and anarchy in society. Today, society is suffering from the ill effects of human anarchy and dereliction. Many of these crimes are attributed to the immoral and unfaithful behaviour of partners or individuals that eventually lead to jealousy, hatred and ultimately assault and murder. Modesty infuses a strong level of social order in society without which immorality and infidelity become rampant.

Therefore, some of the strongest penalties and sanctions prescribed

by the Shariah are for crimes such as adultery, fornication and infidelity. These crimes nibble at the very edifice of our social fibre and harmony and are a gateway to a host of social ills. It appears in Hadith that the Holy Prophet ﷺ said, "*The heavens and the earth, the seven of them each, curse the married person who commits adultery. And the strong stench which spreads out from the private parts of such people will embarrass even the people condemned to Hell and thus there in Hell they will be suffering from the punishment of fire and disgrace both.*" (Reported by al-Bazzar on the authority of Sayyidna Buraidah ؓ. (Mazhari)

In another Hadith from Sayyiduna Abu Hurairah ؓ it has been reported that that Rasulullah ﷺ said, "A fornicator when fornicating is not a believer. A thief when stealing is not a believer. And a drunkard while drinking is not a believer." (Bukhari and Muslim)

Explaining the above Hadith commentators say that "At the time those committing such crimes are practically involved in it, Iman (faith) leaves their heart and comes out, and when they turn away from it, Iman returns back in." (Mazhari)

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The threat of Talaq

Unable to cope with the challenges of a marital relationship, many men resort to venting their frustration and anger on the wife. A common complaint of the wife is that the husband repeatedly threatens her with Talaq. Whenever there is a discussion or argument over a matter that is affecting the marriage, which could be a valid concern or request of the wife, the husband, unwilling to fulfill his duty, attempts to defend his wrong by threatening the wife.

Under threat, the wife is unable to negotiate or discuss the matter further and in fear of the man blurting out divorce in rage, she maintains silence. This is a shameful and cowardly way to silence the wife who is in the care and custody of the husband. Men must realise that possessing the authority of Talaq is not a license to threaten and silence the wife. A man should fear his words and accountability in front of Allah Ta'ala before making such statements and causing emotional hurt and trepidation to the wife.

May Allah Ta'ala grant us understanding

'Hero in public, Zero at home'

This phenomenon is becoming a reality in many homes. Essentially, it refers to a man who is a wonderful, pious, good hearted and generous individual in public. He is admired and loved by his fellow musallees, friends, business associates and community people. However, within the walls of his home he is the total opposite. In the home he is rude, aggressive, angry and abusive. Although he is regarded as a 'hero in public' - at home, he has 'zero' credibility.

This is a sad situation since the most worthy people of a man's kindness and affection is none other than his wife and children. Yet, double standards make it such that a man is good to everyone else and horrible to his family. The family must be ultra-thrifty, save the last cent, not go anywhere, not enjoy any leisure or luxury and not do a single thing wrong. If the family wants something or say something the 'roof comes down'. There is a reign of terror in the home and the family fears the moment the man returns home at the end of the day.

The Sunnah has taught us to be consistent in our public life and private life. Allah Ta'ala is 'all-watching. To show the public one's good side, and to be cruel and harsh in the home is hypocrisy. Let us be true to ourselves, true to our Creator and our family - live a life of piety with consistency inside the home and outside.

Social media can cause stress, depression and related illnesses

Globally, more than 350 million people suffer from depression, according to the World Health Organization. At the same time, social network Facebook has a total population of 1.4 billion monthly active users as of December 2014.

Since social media became a phenomenon in the last decade, numerous studies have explored how sites like Facebook could affect the mental health of its users.

Some Facebook use can lead to jealousy and dejection. If clicking through Facebook inspires feelings of envy, the researchers believe, symptoms of depression could soon follow.

Feeling jealous of friends who are taking expensive vacations, enjoying happy relationships and working in successful careers could trigger feelings of depression. Yet, users who went on Facebook to simply stay connected with friends, and not compare themselves did not suffer such feelings.



If Facebook is used to see how well an acquaintance is doing financially or how happy an old friend is in his relationship - things that cause envy among users—use of the site can lead to feelings of depression.

A study conducted last summer in Austria concluded that the longer users were on Facebook, the worse they felt. However, the research found Facebook use itself doesn't necessarily lead to depression, but scrolling in envy could actually lead to a decrease in good mood.

When logging in, users should remember that everyone on Facebook is presenting the best version of themselves.

The study was conducted at a large U.S. Midwestern university.

The Fatwa Department of Darul Ihsan provides a wide range of services such as the issuing of rulings, verdicts, research, mediation, estate distribution and planning, general advice, etc.

The Fatwa Department receives an average of 250 questions per month - mostly via email - from around the globe. Every reply is checked and approved by at least two Muftis that serve in the department.

REVIVE A SUNNAH

DASTARKHAN - EATING MAT

Qatadah (RA) reported on the authority of Anas ؓ that Nabi ﷺ did not partake in food whilst sitting on a table, nor from a small bowl; and no thin bread was baked for him.' Qatadah was then questioned: 'What did they eat on?' He replied: 'On leather cloths' (placed on the floor).

(Bukhari)



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Quranic guidance on how to speak with dignity

The miracle of the Quran manifests itself in every facet of our life. Speaking and interacting with each other is the busiest occupation of every person.

Allah Ta'ala tells us how to speak, when to speak and why. What we say becomes what we do. So why not speak in the most elevated way we can?

The following verses of the Quran amazingly give huge insight into a believer's manner of speech. Speaking in the manner advised to us by these verses will surely bring a huge amount of peace and safety in our talks.

- "Speak truthfully" (3:17)
- "Speak with justice" (33:70)
- "Speak moderately" (17:110)
- "Speak positively" (2:83)
- "Speak gently" (17:28)
- "Speak softly" (20:44)
- "Speak effectively" (33:32)
- "Speak humbly" (23:3)
- "Speak without lie" (72:5)

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Media Desk

The Media Desk contributes local, national and international news articles for the website and also focuses on news content of the Muslim world.

Letters commenting on broad issues are also regularly sent to the editors of newspapers

Below are a few letters which were sent by the Media Desk and published in newspapers.

Bias and negative reporting against Islam has become a very real phenomenon in the media, especially in the international press.

The Darul Ihsan Media Desk primarily monitors the media for Islamophobic (anti-Islamic) comments and anti-Islamic sentiments made in the mainstream media and interacts positively with media portals conveying the Islamic perspective.

Violence no excuse, but show some sensitivity

THE article "Two gunmen shot dead at Islam art show," Daily News, on Monday refers.

The shooting of the two armed suspects by police in Garland, Texas, averted what could potentially have been a tragic massacre.

Violence is never an acceptable response to hate speech, no matter how inflammatory it is in the context of freedom of expression. Violence cannot be condoned under any circumstances.

However, it seems that

freedom of expression has become open season for its purveyors to have carte blanche in attacking religion with absolute disregard for the beliefs and sensitivity of others.

MEDIA DESK
Darul Ihsan Centre

Two gunmen shot dead at Islam art show

DALLAS: Two gunmen opened fire at an art exhibit in Garland, Texas, featuring depictions of the Prophet Muhammad and were themselves shot dead at the scene by police.

The shooting can echo of past attacks or threats in other Western countries on art de-

picting the prophet, was reported just before 7 pm at the Curtis Guldwell Centre in Garland, northeast of Dallas.

The two armed suspects drove up to the front of the building in a car as the event, called the Muhammad Art Exhibition, was coming to an end.

and began shooting at a security officer, the city said.

Garland police officers then exchanged fire with the gunmen, and both suspects were shot dead. There was no immediate word about the identity or background of the two suspects. Reuters

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Fasting is of 3 levels

Imam Ghazali RA has explained 3 levels of fasting,

1. Fast of the ordinary Muslim. The person's fast is of a general nature, without much consideration of its etiquette. A person routinely abstains from eating, drinking and intimate relations but does not necessarily avoid actions that diminish the quality and reward of the fast. The full effect and reward of fasting is not achieved.

2. Fast of a "spiritually activated" person. Such a person protects the eyes, tongue, ears and other limbs from sin and vice and fasts with a real purpose and consciousness of Allah Ta'ala.

3. Fast of those who have attained



a lofty spiritual rank. These are the close friends of Allah Ta'ala. They have developed control over their thoughts and intentions. They are absorbed with soul, mind and body in the meditation and consciousness of Allah Ta'ala and are not deterred by worldly distractions and frivolities. They have fully entrusted themselves and their affairs to Allah Ta'ala.

We should strive to reach the third and desired level of fasting which in essence is the real purpose of this great ibadah - act of worship.

Weed

The gateway to destruction

Weed, pot, ghanja, dagga, marijuana, zol... or whatever else you want to call it - is a drug that is the gateway to devastation. Research has shown that more than 85% of those who smoke weed - known as a starter drug - are more likely to do 'harder' drugs like cocaine - a highly addictive and destructive substance.

The initial journey of drug addiction generally starts off innocently within a circle of friends, in a fun or 'dare' experiment that requires one to 'take a whiff or two' - seemingly innocent at first, yet this is where druggie's journey to doom starts. You are promised that you cannot get addicted, and there's nothing serious, after all its just one 'pull.' That's the deception as many years later, sitting in a prison cell or in some rehabilitation centre - with a life in tatters - even that person will readily admit that one 'pull' is all it takes to pave your path to destruction.

One user explains, "As I speak I am addicted to coke, heroine, tik - and it all started with weed." The smoking of dagga (weed), has become so common that one young Muslim boy said "you cannot be normal if you haven't tried weed."

What is weed and where does it come from? In the past people grew weed in their backyards, or bought it from the corner café. Today, weed is grown on a mass, specialized scale -

even in green houses with advanced hydroponic technology to make the weed 'more potent' than ever before. Remember, with the increase in potency the emotional 'high' and state of ecstasy also increases. Consequently, the harm it causes to the brain and body is increased tremendously.

Research has shown that the smoking of excessive weed causes major functional imbalances in the human brain. This results in loss of memory, impaired judgment and poor functionality.

There is a huge misconception that 'dagga' is not addictive. This is untrue - today research has proven it to be highly addictive.

Insha Allah, in the next issue we will discuss how addiction takes place and how it has destroyed the lives of many who started smoking weed casually.

May Allah Ta'ala protect us, our youth and the entire Ummah. Ameen.



Great virtues of Surah Ikhlas

Hazrat Anas ؓ narrates that Rasulullah ﷺ said, "He who recites Surah Ikhlas 200 times everyday, then the sins of fifty years are wiped off except if he has a debt" (Tirmizi, Darimi)

Hazrat Anas ؓ narrates that Rasulullah ﷺ said, "He who intends to sleep on his bed, then he lies on his right and recites 100 times Surah Ikhlas then on the Day of Qiyamat Allah will say to him O my servant,

enter Jannah on your right." (Tirmizi, Darimi)

Hazrat Abu Hurayrah ؓ narrates that once Rasulullah ﷺ heard a person reciting Surah Ikhlas and said: "It has become compulsory for him," I said, "What has become compulsory?" He replied, "Jannah". (Tirmizi, Nasa'i)

Surah Ikhlas is surah number 112 in the Quran generally known as 'Qul huwallahu Ahad'.

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Glimpses of the Ramadan of the pious saints

Shaikhul Hadith Hazrat Maulana Zakariyya (R)

It was difficult enough for anyone to meet with Hazrat Shaikh in Ramadan, but to talk to him was completely out of the question, especially when it was his routine to complete one Quran plus a little more every day (in case Ramadan was 29 days). In that case, there was no chance of meeting him, despite his love for guests who came to meet him and his hospitality towards them.

It is known that Imam Abu Hanifa (R) completed 61 Qurans in Ramadan. Hazrat encouraged his devotees to do the same.

Hazrat said:

“Once, I wrote to some of my friends and asked them to recite 60 Qurans in one Ramadan. Many of my friends strove to reach that goal. One finished 61 Qur'an, some did 60 and one did 56.”

Hazrat Maulana Khalil Ahmad Saharanpuri (R)

It was Hazrat's habit to recite two paras in Tahajjud Salah. Sometimes



it was a bit more and sometimes a bit less, according to the time available. Reading of additional literature was completely discarded in Ramadan. The Tasbeeh was always in his hand and his tongue busy with Zikr.

Hazrat Maulana Rashid Ahmad Gangohi (R)

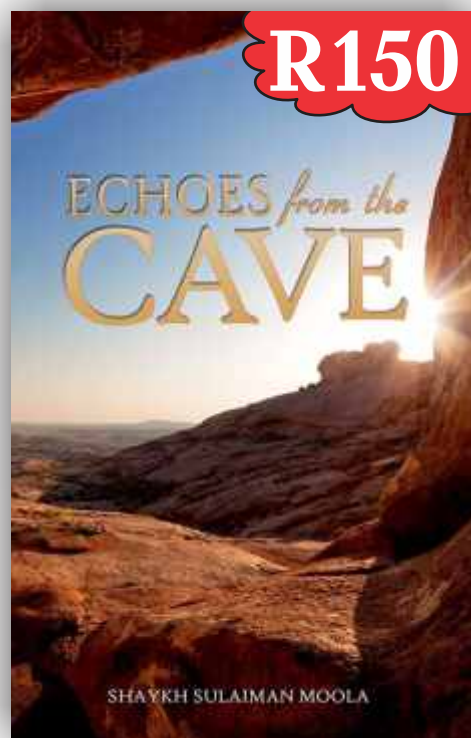
During Ramadan there was a marked increase in his Ibadat, especially the recitation of the Quran. His extreme exertion in spiritual exercises was such that onlookers felt pity for him. After fasting the entire day, instead of six Rakats Awabeen, he used to perform twenty Rakats, during which he never recited less than two paras.

When going to and from his house he never spoke. He would recite about fifteen paras of Quran daily. On the morning of Ramadan he used to say: “...If any man allows Ramadan to be wasted, it is a great sorrow indeed.”

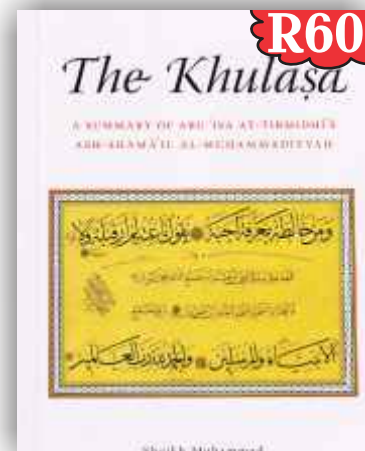


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NO children in the Masjid

Rasulullah ﷺ said, ‘When a child is seven years of age, instruct him to perform Salah, and when he is ten, discipline him (upon its negligence).’ (Mishkat)

This Hadith advises parents to ensure that children learn the importance of Salah from an early age. The male child should also be taught the reverence and sanctity of the Masjid.

Some enthusiastic parents bring minor children to the Masjid with good intent that the child will perform Salah regularly in his life. However, minor children are generally playful, disruptive and neglectful of ritual cleanliness and therefore not permitted to attend

the Masjid. Children who are ignorant about the etiquette of the Masjid should not be brought to the Masjid.

Rasulullah ﷺ said, “Keep your insane and children away from the Masajid...” (Ibn Majah)

It has been often experienced that little children who are brought to the Masjid by their parents disrupt the quiet and sanctity of the Masjid and disturb the Salah of the entire congregation.

Parents are humbly requested to take cognisance of the guidelines outlined in the Hadith regarding this issue and act responsibly.

NB: It is also improper to allow children into the Saffs (rows) of adults.

Resort to Salah



Salatul Hajat (prayer of need) refers to performing two or more rakats of optional salah with the purpose of fulfilling one's needs. The concept of seeking divine assistance through salah is derived from the Quran

Allah Ta'ala says, “Take help from patience and salah.” (Baqarah V45)

Huzaifa ؓ reports that “When a concern would overcome Rasulullah

ﷺ he would offer Salah.” (Abu Dawood)

It also established that whenever the earlier Prophets ؑ would be perturbed by a matter “When they were concerned, they would take recourse to Salah.”

Rasulullah ﷺ said: “Whoever performs perfect wudhu then offers two Rakahs of Salah, making them complete, Allah will give him what he asks, immediately or with delay.” (Musnad Ahmad)

We all have needs and requirements; the Ummah is in dire need of Duas, so we should make practice of performing Salah and seeking Allah Ta'ala's favours, mercy and protection through this very effective means of Salatul Hajat.

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Ramadan is a special month

In the month of Ramadan Allah Ta'ala has protected us from our routine of negligence and indifference. It is as if Allah Ta'ala is saying, 'O my slave! why are you so deeply engrossed with your farming? Submit yourself to My door! O my slave! why are you rooted to your shop busy buying and selling (making you oblivious of your Creator)? Submit yourself to My Royal Court, to the Masjid! O my slave! Why are you busy mending shoes and sewing clothes? Come to me! Free yourself from everything and come to My door!'

Allah Ta'ala has summoned us to His court in order to shower us with gifts. He has called us so that our sins may be forgiven. He has called us for the islah (purification) of our hearts and inner condition.

We should respond to this call and submit ourselves to our Creator instead of involving ourselves in hurling abuse at one another, and engaging in backbiting and fault-finding.

Here (in the masjid) there is tilawat of the Quran Shareef; the name of Allah Ta'ala is here; tasbeeh is here; durood shareef is here; istighfar is here; nawaafil ibaadat (optional good actions) is here. What a great favour has Allah Ta'ala bestowed on us that He has personally invited us to Him as special guests!



Allah Ta'ala has chained the shayateen. These were the ones that troubled us the whole year through. They are the ones that misdirected us to various types of sins. Allah Ta'ala has saved us from them. The schemes and mischief of the shayateen are such that to detect them is not within the capacity of every person. They cause a tremendous amount of grief and trouble but the shayateen are terrified of the Mashaaikh (Friends of Allah), and they flee from them.

From the talks of Moulana Maseehullah Khan Sahib (R)

Note: The above advice does not mean that one should completely divorce oneself from worldly obligations and duties. In essence, one should make maximum use of the opportunities that avail themselves in this auspicious month.

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We call on you to please accumulate your kajoor pits this Ramadan and forward to/call Darul Ihsan offices.



Salatut Tasbeeh

Salatut Tasbeeh is a special form of Salah that carries great rewards and blessings.

Hazrat Abdullah ibn Abbas ؓ reports that Nabi ﷺ said to Hazrat Abbas ؓ:

"O Abbas! O my uncle! Shall I present you with a gift? Should I bestow something on you? May I inform you of something greatly beneficial? Should I show you such an act which, if performed, Allah will forgive all your sins - past and future, those committed in error and those committed deliberately,

sins committed publicly or privately? That is to perform four Rakats (Salatut Tasbeeh) ... after explaining the method of performing Salatut Tasbeeh, Nabi ﷺ exclaimed:

If possible, perform this Salah daily; if you are unable to do so, then perform it once a week. If you are unable, then perform it once a month; if you are unable, then perform it once a year and if you are unable to do even this, then perform it at least once in a lifetime." (Abu Dawood)

The tasbeeh to be recited in Salatut Tasbeeh:

سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ وَلَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

"Subhan allahi wal hamdulillahi wa la ilaha illal laahu wallahu akbar"

The words لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ الْعَلِيِّ الْعَظِيمِ "La hawla wala quwwata illa billah" may also be added at the end of the above tasbeeh.

Method

- Before Surah Fatiha, recite the above tasbeeh - 15 Times
- After the Surah and before Ruku - 10 Times
- In Ruku after the Tasbeeh - 10 Times
- In Qowmah (standing position after Ruku) - 10 Times
- In (first) Sajda after the Tasbeeh - 10 Times
- In Jalsa (sitting position between the two Sajdas) - 10 Times
- In (second) Sajda after the Tasbeeh - 10 Times

The above method must be applied to every Rakah.

Note:

1. In every Rakat, the Tasbeeh will be recited 75 times totaling 300 times in the entire Salah.
2. There is another method of Salatut Tasbeeh which is also correct and acceptable.

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Q & A

Q Is it permissible to commence the fast in a state wherein one requires fard ghushl?

A Fard ghushl should not be delayed unnecessarily. However, if one commences the fast in the state where one requires a Fard ghushl the fast will be valid. A person should at least wash the hands, gargle the mouth, and rinse the nose thoroughly before Sehri.

Q Does the use of an injection or a drip break the fast?

A The use of an injection or drip does not nullify the fast.

Q Does vomiting break the fast?

A The fast will break if:
(a) A person vomited a mouthful involuntarily and swallowed it or a part of it by his own volition.
(b) If one had voluntarily (induced) vomited a mouthful whether swallowed or not.

NB: A "mouthful of vomit" is defined as such a measure (volume) that one cannot hold back in one's mouth without difficulty

Q Can one use eye drops whilst fasting?

A It is permissible to use eye-drops whilst fasting. The fast will not be nullified even if the taste of it is felt in the mouth.

Q If the nose begins to bleed whilst fasting, will the fast break?

A The fast will not break by mere nose bleeding. If the blood flowed down the nasal passage and entered the throat then it will be seen whether the blood was more than the saliva or less than it. If the blood was more than the saliva or equal to it the fast will break. If the blood was less than the saliva then the fast will not break.

Q Is it permissible for a fasting person to scent the Masjid through burning loban or any other incense sticks?

A It is makrooh for a fasting person to burn incense in the Masjid or anywhere else, due to the possibility of smoke inhalation. Inhaling the smoke intentionally will nullify the fast.

Q Whilst fasting, if the gums begin to bleed and the blood flows down the throat will the fast break?

A If the blood which was swallowed with the saliva was more than the saliva or equal to it, then the fast will break and only qadha will be Wajib. If the blood was less than the saliva then the fast will not break.

Q If, whilst fasting, water goes down the throat when gargling the mouth or rinsing the nose in wudhu or ghushl will the fast break?

A If one was mindful that he was fasting at the time and water seeped down the throat or nostril, the fast will break. If one was unmindful that he was fasting, the fast will not break.

Q Can I use ear-drops whilst fasting? Will it break the fast?

A Usage of ear-drops will break the fast.

Q Is it compulsory for a musafir (Shari traveller) to fast whilst on a journey?

A It is not compulsory for a musafir to fast whilst on a journey. However, if the musafir is able to fast during his journey then this is more rewarding. The missed fast must be made-up after Ramadan.

Q A person intends travelling during the course of the day and at the time of Subh Sadiq (when the fast commences) while he is still in his hometown. Is it permissible for him not to fast?

A It is compulsory for a person who is present in his hometown at the time of Subh Sadiq to fast. Since he only intends travelling during the course of the

day, the concession of not fasting does not apply to him. Hence, if he does not keep the fast he will be sinful.

Q I understand that it is not permissible to smoke cigarettes etc. whilst fasting. However, is it permissible to take the e-cigarette whilst fasting?

A Using the e-cigarette causes a sensation of some vapour/substance going down the throat. This will also break the fast.

What time does Sehri end?

Q Is the fast valid if we continue eating till the Azan of Fajr is called out?

A Generally in South Africa, the Azan is not called out precisely when Sehri ends. Rather the Azan is called out approximately 5-10 minutes after Sehri time has lapsed. This is contrary to the Middle East and other countries where the Azan is called out immediately upon expiry of Sehri. Therefore, if one intentionally eats beyond the Sehri time indicated on the local calendars his/her fast will not be valid.

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What's Happening at Darul Ihsan Centre

Darul Ihsan Centre outreach to victims of fire disaster at Red Hill informal settlement

On Saturday 02 May 2015 at 20:30 PM Darul Ihsan Centre received a call from Mr Malcolm Canham, senior manager at Ethekwini Disaster Management, informing the Centre about a fire disaster at the Mallacca Road informal settlement in Red Hill - and the need for some emergency relief.

Mr Canham requested that an assessment be done in the morning due to poor visibility at the settlement.

Early on Sunday morning (03 May 2015) the 'Relief Team' of the Centre visited the informal settlement where they were met by a settlement official, Mr Eric, who briefed the team on the fire disaster.

Mr Eric mentioned that 11 shacks were completely razed by the fire affecting at least 25 children and adults - fortunately, with no fatalities or serious injuries.

Mr Eric impressed that the immediate need for those affected was food due to their overnight ordeal.

The 'Relief Team' immediately provided essential food requirements for breakfast which it distributed amongst the victims. Members of the Relief Team also spent some time comforting the children and elders.



Mr Eric expressed his sincere gratitude to Darul Ihsan Centre for their kind gesture.

Present at the site, Mr Isaac Ngubane - a member of Ethekwini Disaster Management - also thanked Darul Ihsan Centre for its quick response to the need of the hour.

Mr Eric and Mr Ngubane made further requests for clothes and blankets for those affected as all their belongings perished in the fire.

On Tuesday 05 May 2015 Darul Ihsan Centre delivered an assortment of clothes and blankets to the officials of the informal settlement for distribution amongst those affected by the fire.

Al Ihsan Relief (AIR)



Marriage education course held in PMB

Continuing with its education drive to enlighten Muslims on important social aspects, the Darul Ihsan Social Department held a marriage education course titled 'Made In Heaven' on 9 May 2015 in Pietermaritzburg. The programme encompassed a wide range of discussions pertaining to marriage.

Four presentations were conducted by the Ulama of Darul Ihsan Centre. Mufti Zubair Bayat conducted an enlightening module on 41 practical ways to a trouble free marriage. This module unpacked the practical difficulties faced by couples and effective ways to trouble shoot and resolve these challenges. Further presentations on the fiqh aspects of marriage and good living were conducted.

The programme concluded with an important presentation on 'Muslim Marriage Contracts' - highlighting

the need for couples to have a pre or post nuptial contract detailing critical aspects of their marriage in an agreement that would help to minimize and even avoid problems and disputes later in life. Such an agreement should be drawn up under the guidance of an Aalim.

The programme was interactive and many questions were fielded. Requests for more indepth discussions and more frequent courses of a similar nature were received from the participants. Some impressions on the programme:

"Thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of the course"

"Consider holding more in-dept courses as a follow up to this course"

"Essential education that came at the right time"

Darul Ihsan Social Dept.

Darul Ihsan Centre partners with Operation Sukuma Sakhe at Hammarsdale

Darul Ihsan Centre was invited to partner the Operation Sukuma Sakhe coordinator, Mr Sipoho Mthethwa, through the Ethekwini Municipality Mayor's Office, extended an invitation to Darul Ihsan Centre to be a partner in hosting a 'Senior Citizens Women in Dialogue' event at Mpumalanga Township near Hammarsdale, KwaZulu-Natal on Thursday, 28 May 2015.

The event was a joint initiative between the Ethekwini Operation Sukuma Sakhe and the Director-General, Mr Nhlanhla Ngidi, from the office of the Honourable Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Edward Senzo Mchunu. The Mayor of Durban, Councillor James Nxumalo was also present at the event.

The event was held at the KwaMagaba Hall and earmarked to respect and honour 500 senior and elderly women - with special acknowledgement to 10 of the women being centenarians - over



100 years of age for their courage during the violence in the area.

The Director-General, Mr Nhlanhla Ngidi, gave an inspiring talk on acknowledging the contribution of all the senior and elderly women and men followed by an equally inspiring speech by Councillor James Nxumalo.

The Darul Ihsan representative - who was part of the forum of members - also gave a speech in which he highlighted the importance of unity in our society.

Darul Ihsan Centre, through its Muslim Empowerment Fund provided hot meals for all the senior and elderly attendees and distributed 500 blankets amongst them.



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(Tirmizi)

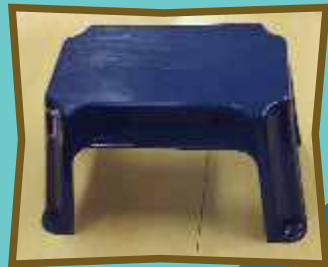


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Sadaqa Jariya



Nabi ﷺ Said: Seek sustenance (from Allah and give charity - through its blessings one's sustenance will increase.

(Bayhaqi)

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Darul Ihsan Centre - Gem Towers, 98 Overport Dr, Overport

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1. Generous contributions from individuals, no matter how small, make a serious difference to the lives of so many people.

2. Every Rand helps us to build and strengthen the Ummah, through our various projects and upliftment programmes.

3. Your ongoing support, contributions and Duas have been vital in allowing Darul Ihsan to serve the Ummah, especially those most in need.

4. Visit our website www.darulihsan.com to view some of the success stories.

5. Administrative expenses in driving our projects are huge and require purely Lillah funds. We humbly appeal to our Zakah donors to also consider contributing Lillah to assist us in sustaining operational costs.

6. Become a regular Darul Ihsan donor through the debit order or online method and secure your investments for the Hereafter.

HOW YOU CAN HELP US HELP THE POOR!

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First National Bank
Account Name: Darul Ihsan Centre
Branch: Tongaat - **Code:** 220329

Account Numbers:

Lillah: 62130045398
Zakaat: 62130044910
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Ihsan Feed Scheme

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School Stationary Packs

Al Ihsan Relief

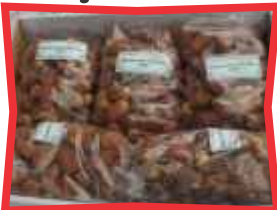
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Tradesman Empowerment



Tradesman Empowerment



Tuck-Shop-Starter-Pack

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Tuck Shop



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