

Earn Your Place In Your Country!

This profound message is ever more relevant and important!
By: Shaikh Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi (R)

A dynamic speech delivered by
Maulana Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi
(Rahimahullah) in Dewsbury, UK in
1982 at the opening of the
Dewsbury Masjid

Da'wah in the Seerah

As you are aware, Nabi Muhammad ﷺ, had a burning desire to invite humanity towards Islam. Despite 13 years of untiring effort in Makkah Mukarramah and 7 years in Madinah Munawwarah, there was no large scale movement of non-Muslims into Islam. Between 7 AH and 10 AH, which is the period after Fath-Makkah (Conquest of Makkah) until Nabi ﷺ demise, there was such an influx of people entering the fold of Islam that was not witnessed in the preceding 20 years.

Imam Zuhri (R), an eminent Scholar and Tabi'i (companion of the Sahabah), expressed surprise on this sea of change, with so many people embracing Islam in a matter of just 3 years. Along with other distinguished Scholars, he has commented that this was due to non-Muslims having had an opportunity for the first time, to observe and intermingle with Muslims, witness their honesty, fair dealing, compassion and sole reliance on Almighty Allah. This left such a deep and profound impression on non-Muslims that thousands entered into the fold of

Islam within a relatively short period of time.

Applying the lessons of Seerah here and now

This incident also contains abundant lessons on how Muslims should live in this country. Their conduct should be sublime and captivating. Whosoever should see us should accept Islam. Whosoever sits with us should be inclined towards Islam. There should be no need to convince anyone to accept the Truth.

Therefore, in this country, if you wish to live peacefully and have an opportunity to present Islam to the host community, you will need to inculcate and manifest sterling qualities, not just inside the Masjid but also outside in the streets, in the markets, in your daily activities, and at home. A life of Taqwa will immediately attract non-Muslims towards Islam.

Dangers of living isolated and insulated

As an ordinary student of Islam it is my religious responsibility to warn you. If you do not lead an upright life, if you continue to live an insular lifestyle, and if you fail to manifest the beauty of Islam to non-Muslims, then you face some real dangers. In such a case, there is no reason for you to feel content and secure in this country.

Darul Ihsan Centre congratulates the Matric Class of 2017

May Allah Ta'ala grant you success, prosperity and a great future

Go for 6A's and earn your place in Jannah!

- Allah Consciousness** - Let Allah's presence be with you always
- Akhlaq** - Good character perfects Imaan and is the hallmark of a believer
- A'mal Saliha** - Good deeds illuminates the heart and protects from sin

- Amr bil Ma'roof** - Enjoining good will transform our community
- Amanat-daari** - Honesty and trustworthiness will win the hearts of people
- Adab** - Etiquette & respect takes one to great heights

Darul Ihsan Centre

If ever the fire of race, religion or nationalism rages here you will not be saved. In Spain there were Masajid a hundred times more beautiful than yours. So do not feel content and self-satisfied. As an ordinary student of Islam I wish to express my joy and happiness at this wonderful new Masjid. But what words shall I use to congratulate you?

Lessons from Spain

Others may not speak to you as plainly, but remember the glorious Masjid of Cordoba. It still stands in Spain. Iqbal, the great Poet of the East, so eloquently reminisces the great legacy of Islamic Spain in his famous poem Masjide-Qurtaba. In Islamic Spain, there were such brilliant Masajid, celebrated Madrasahs, famous scholars like

Shaikh-ul-Akbar, Ibnu-Hazm, Qurtubi, Shatbi - and how many others shall I mention? However, when the flames of religious sectarianism raged then the Masajid and Madrasahs became deserted.

Once, Islamic Spain boasted such magnificent structures, distinguished educational centres, refined culture and society. Regrettably, the Muslims, despite such a high standard of living, did not draw the non-Muslims of that country to see the truth of Islam, to warn them of the dangers of disbelief, with the result that ensuing religious violence subsequently consumed them like a morsel. The Arabs with their glowing history, architectural splendour and vast oceans of knowledge, were displaced from the country. Today, unfortunately, the ears eagerly wait

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cont. from page 1

to hear the Azaan and the empty Masajid are thirsty for the Salah.

Earn your place in your country

You must earn your recognition in this country. You should earn your place and leave an imprint on the host community of your value and significance. You must show that your exemplary conduct is far nobler than that of other people. You must impart on them the lessons of humanity. You should demonstrate such commitment and noble virtues that impress on people that there cannot be found more upright humans elsewhere besides you. You need to establish your worth, showing what blessing and mercy you are for the country.

If however you decide to live in an enclosed environment simply content with your prayers and fasting, apathetic to the people and society you live in, never introducing them to the high Islamic values and your own personal qualities, then beware, lest any religious or sectarian violence flares up. In such a situation, you will not find safety or protection.

I pray to Almighty Allah my fears are totally unfounded. But remember, you are guests here. Your Tabligh, Masajid, Madrasahs, worship and religious sacrifices are all worthy of commendation. May Almighty Allah grant you Barakah. But do not forget to earn your place in this country. Gain proficiency of the national language and use it to

effectively propagate Islam. Prepare writers and orators to convey the message of Islam. Although you will distance yourself from their religion, do not distance yourself from them. Establish your credibility to the extent that if you are entrusted with onerous responsibilities, as was Prophet Yusuf u, you do not shirk, but embrace all challenges wholeheartedly.

Your priority should not be wealth and luxury

You will have to present a new pattern of life to this country. You will not earn recognition by exerting yourselves in the workplace. If you overwork you will be looked upon disparagingly and be likened to horses and bulls. In fact, you will be labelled as money-making machines. However, if you can show to the people here that you are worshippers of Almighty Allah and not wealth, you do not bow before power but only before virtue, you are humans and think like humans, you are concerned not only about yourselves but also about others; and you are compassionate about your own children as well as theirs, that you are earnestly concerned about the path of destruction they have chosen for themselves, you will then earn their respect. They will begin to respect Islam and become desirous of studying it. They will ask you for literature concerning Islamic beliefs and practices and an opportunity will arise here for you to promote Islam.

On the other hand, if you remain preoccupied in eating and working, engaged in prayers, remaining indifferent to what is happening in the country, insulated within the Muslim community, totally apathetic to what is happening outside, which direction the country is taking - in such a situation if there is trouble, you will not be able to save yourselves.

Strengthen your position

I have been meaning to convey and accentuate this message to you as I do not know whether I will be able to visit you again in the future. You gathered here with love and affection and therefore it was easy for me to convey. As a student of religion it would have been convenient for me to recommend the virtues of reciting various Zikr

or prescribe certain Wazifahs but you may not have had an opportunity of listening to the message I have just conveyed from anyone else.

Please strengthen your position in this country. Earn your recognition. Do not be like a straw or crop that is uprooted by a mere breeze. You should be so firm that not even a hurricane is able to displace you. Display such noble character that you attract the hearts of the people. See then how these people will stand up to defend you. If there is the slightest hostility towards you, they will be the first ones to argue on your behalf and argue what a blessing you are for them.

May Almighty Allah grant us the ability to understand what is right; may He bless and protect you. Aameen.

Necessity of Madrasah Classes The need for basic Islamic education for our children

A major concern for Muslims is the poor state of Islamic knowledge and understanding among Muslim children in relation to Quran recitation, matters of belief, purity and jurisprudence. Many children are now not attending any formal Madrasah program either at school or after school. Emphasis on academic and extra-curricular activities has severely impacted on

the Islamic learning of these children. These children have very minimal idea of the very basic aspects of Islam. Some cannot recognise an Arabic letter, recite the basic kalimas or Surah Fatiha, etc. This is a major concern and it's inevitable that these children will become non practicing Muslim adults and be out of depth to guide their off spring towards being practicing Muslims.

Parents must make this a top priority - for the success of their children in both worlds.



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World News

Turkey to continue responding to humanitarian crises

Turkey will remain at the forefront in dealing with humanitarian crises," said Mevlut Cavusoglu, the Turkish Foreign Minister (FM).

"In recent years we have increased the amount and variety of our assistance," the FM said at the summit of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) at Antalya City.

The FM said that Turkey hosts more than 3.2 million Syrians, more than any other country in the world.

He said that despite all claims, the international community did not help Turkey in dealing with the crisis, and Turkey has spent \$30 billion on the refugees since the civil war in Syria broke out in 2011.

He added that Turkey was taking special care to ensure access to education for the Syrian refugees.

"There are 976,000 Syrian children of school-going-age living in Turkey. 620,000 of them have been able to continue their education. We are doing our best to increase this number," he said.



Kerem Kinik, head of the Turkish Red Crescent Society, said that media reports of human tragedies received a half-hearted response from the international community.

"We witness human tragedies and stories about people leaving behind their home, work, land. We watch stories of children who have to leave their friends, toys, families and schools. We see how babies are washed up dead on beaches. Yet sadly enough, the amount of media coverage of humanitarian crises and the amount of humanitarian action vis-à-vis these crises do not often overlap. There is still a paradoxical gap between the recognition of crises and finding appropriate solutions for them," he said.

SA aiming for open cities

EThekweni Municipality, together with other member states of the South African Cities Network, are two steps ahead of other countries in terms of attainment the New Urban Agenda.

This was revealed by Director of External Relations at the United Nations Habitat, Christine Musisi during the commemoration of World Cities Day held at Moses Mabhida Stadium on 31 October. Musisi said a year after the adoption of the New Urban Agenda at the Habitat III Conference in Quito, eThekweni Municipality together with the SA Cities Network is already moving towards localising the New Urban Agenda.

She said eThekweni is the first Municipality to host the commemoration of the World Cities



Day in Africa. "This year's theme is 'Innovative Governance, Open Cities' which aims to highlight the important role of urbanisation as a source of global development and social inclusion. We are proud that SA Cities Network is already unpacking the concept of open cities in the South African context."

In 2013, the United Nations General Assembly designated 31 October as World Cities Day.

Rohingya survivor: The army threw my baby into a fire!

Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh - Sitting on the dusty floor of a ramshackle tent in Kutupalong - one of Bangladesh's largest Rohingya refugee camps - Rajuma struggles to contain her grief as she describes the night her baby son was brutally murdered.



With pain etched on her face, she recounts in detail the day Myanmar's army attacked Tula Tuli, her isolated village in northern Rakhine state. "My baby was in my lap when the soldiers hit me," she tells Al Jazeera's Mohammed Jamjoom, her voice cracking with emotion. "He fell out of my arms. Then they pulled me closer to the wall, and I could hear that he was crying. Then after a few minutes, I could hear that they were hitting him too." Sadiq was a happy, playful one-and-a-half-year-old baby boy - a child Rajuma still cannot believe is gone.

After ripping him out of her arms, Rajuma says Myanmar soldiers hurled Sadiq into a fire. She was then gang raped. "I feel like I'm burning on the inside," Rajuma says, before breaking down and crying out for her dead mother. Her parents, two of her sisters and her younger brother were also killed. Her husband, Mohammed Rafiq, was able to escape and survived the attack. Several Rohingya have shared similar accounts, describing how women and girls were raped, tortured and forced to endure acts of humiliation at the hands of Myanmar soldiers.

'Unconcern at suffering shows West's true face'

Turkey's president says Islamophobia, neo-Nazism, racism displacing democracy, human rights and freedoms in the West

Turkey's president on Wednesday criticized Western countries' indifference to humanitarian crises among Muslims, adding that racist and discriminatory ideologies are increasingly displacing democratic values in the West.

"The West's unresponsiveness to the violence that has been going on in Syria for seven years, to the inhumane treatment refugees are subjected to at border gates, and to the genocide of the Rohingya have revealed the true face of the West," Recep Tayyip Erdogan told an Organization of Islamic Cooperation economic meeting in Istanbul.



"Islamophobia, neo-Nazism, and racism began to replace values such as democracy, human rights and freedoms more and more" in the West, he added.

Addressing the OIC's Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), he said: "As the Islamic world, it is evident that we have been going through a period of hardship in recent years, literally an era of instigation."

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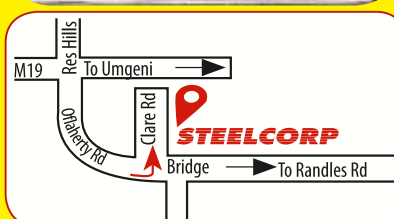
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5 Duties to our Master Muhammad ﷺ

The lesson and teachings of the Sunnah are universal for the harmonious co-existence of humanity. The way of life shown to us by our master Muhammad ﷺ is simple, practical and beneficial in every respect. Allah Ta'ala says in the Noble Quran "And you Muhammad ﷺ are surely on an excellent standard of character."

(Surah Al-Qalam, Verse 4)

Every follower of Nabi Muhammad ﷺ is indebted to him for his sacrifices, concern and love for his followers. A Muslim has five primary duties to Nabi ﷺ

1 Belief - To believe in the finality of His Prophethood and that there will be no messenger after him. We also believe that everything he brought was true and divine and that he is the seal of messengers.

2 Love - Every Muslim must develop true love for Nabi ﷺ. Faith is incomplete without true love for him. True love will propel one to emulate the Sunnah and pursue his mission.

3 Emulate his objectives - Emulating the Master ﷺ is a sign of true love for him. The one who sincerely loves Nabi ﷺ and fulfils his mission has been promised Jannah.

4 Recitation of Durood - It is essential for every Muslim to recite Durood upon Nabi ﷺ frequently, especially on Friday. A person should endeavour to recite at least 300 Duroods daily and increase it on Friday. Recitation of Durood enhances love for Nabi ﷺ.

5 Propagation - to propagate and promote the life and teachings of Nabi ﷺ. This shall be done by way of character and encouragement to others to follow this path. May Allah Ta'ala grant us the intercession of Nabi ﷺ on the Day of Qiyamah.

Holidays - Year End Parties - Road Safety

It's the year-end - Don't be caught off guard

- The academic year-end is a time when many learners plan for a 'party bash' to end the year in a celebratory mood. Haram & illicit entertainment - alcohol, drugs, sexual activities, etc. are the main attractions.
- An innocent braai or party could be an occasion for alcohol and hard drugs like cocaine, etc. to be introduced, turning your son/daughter into a drug addict.
- Drag racing and speeding on the roads at 'breakneck' speeds with a group of 'wild' friends - where the possible risk of an accident may claim lives or leave permanent injuries to your child.
- Your child could be a victim of rape - since these parties are synonymous with sexual activities, many have fallen prey to rape and subsequent suicide.

Parents are requested to please take responsibility. Communicate and interact positively with your child. Create good alternatives to occupy your child. Make regular dua for protection and success of your child.

May Allah protect our children and grant them steadfastness on Deen.

The Holiday Season - Allah is always watching

The holiday season is here. While on vacation, Muslims tend to become unmindful of their identity and duties towards Allah Ta'ala. Let's always be mindful of the following: Uphold your Muslim identity at all times (dress code, behaviour, honesty etc.).

- Be punctual with the five daily Salah - even on a journey.
- Guard against all forms of immodesty and shameless activities.
- Lower the gaze - especially in public places like malls, beaches, etc.
- Be alert and conscious about the Halal status when eating-out or purchasing food.

Road safety tips

Road users have rights and responsibilities towards each other. Muslims must display etiquette and courtesy on the road. Some tips to follow are:

1. Never text whilst driving - it's like driving blindfolded - Using a cellphone whilst driving is highly distractive.
2. Be alert of other motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.
3. Keep safe driving distances
4. Take regular breaks and don't drive if tired.
5. Ensure all passengers buckle up including babies in child safety seats.
6. You are not the only one on the road. Respect other users, don't be hasty and give way where you can.
7. Recite your travel duas, ayatul kursi and make zikr whilst driving.

May Allah Ta'ala enable us to be steadfast and protect us from all harm and haram.



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'Taqwa School of Excellence'

With the Grace of Allah Ta'ala, the 'Taqwa School of Excellence' - based in Johannesburg - has moved to its new premises.

Taqwa School of Excellence is an educational initiative of Darul Ihsan Centre, South Africa.

It is an independent, private remedial Islamic School that opened its doors in January 2012.

Now located at Mayfair, Johannesburg, the school currently has a student roll of 20 learners with two full time educators. The learners are from different social and cultural backgrounds and the education offered by the school is aimed at children with learning difficulties who require special individual attention and tuition with much love and care.

The school offers academic, Islamic and life skills education. Together with the full time educators, a professional team of specialist volunteers including occupational therapists, remedial therapists, speech and hearing Therapists, etc. offer their services to the school to enhance the schooling experience of each learner. Taqwa School of Excellence believes in a unified, holistic approach in addressing the needs of learners to enable them to realise the potential that Allah Ta'ala has kept within every individual.

Since its inception the institute has grown and has been warmly received by the community for the unique and excellent service that it provides.

Some impressions of the educators and learners at the school

• "I am a teacher at Taqwa School of Excellence and I couldn't be more proud to say so. I feel that joining this school was Allah's way of showing me the more meaningful side to life. Working with children who have special needs at Taqwa School has changed not only me as a person, but also my outlook towards life." - Educator - Clinical Psychologist

• "Alhamdulillah with the grace and mercy of Allah (SWT) Allah has provided the beautiful and heart-warming Taqwa School of Excellence for my child." - Parent

• "My child has benefitted and grown, socially, Islamically and academically due to the untiring and dedicated efforts of all the members of Taqwa School of Excellence." - Parent

The address of the School is 34 Mercury Street, Mayfair West on the corner of St Gothard Avenue.

For enrolment and more information contact Maulana Ravat on 082 671 9956

Dining at a restaurant that serves alcohol

It is imperative for a Muslim to purchase and consume food that is Halaal, pure and wholesome. Halaal consumption is a critical requirement for the protection of Imaan (faith) and spiritual progress. Islam deplores impermissible consumption to the extent that dining at a place where alcohol is served is detested.

In a narration Hazrat Jabir reports that Rasulullah said: "...And whosoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should not sit at a table where alcohol is being served" (Tirmizi). This narration is corroborated by narrations in Sunan Abi Dawud, Sunan Nasai, Musnad Ahmad, Mustadrak Hakim and Sunan Darimi.

The directive in this particular teaching is that Muslims should be fully conscious of not only of what is consumed but also where. Showing complicity with what is prohibited opens the gate to do the unlawful. Allah Ta'ala says, "And do not incline towards the wrongdoers,



lest the Fire should afflict you, and you shall have no supporters other than Allah, then you shall not be helped." (Surah Hud, Verse 113)

The unfortunate reality is that Muslims do frequent eateries where alcohol is served with the assumption they are consuming the food and not the prohibited drink. Even non-Muslims are alarmed when they see Muslims frequenting such places. This is also a disservice to Islam as we are portraying a negative image of Muslim practice.

The divine injunctions in this regard should be kept in the forefront when deciding where to eat. Uphold one's identity and values and do not eat where alcohol is served.

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Allah Ta'ala accept and make it easy for the suffering Ummah.

Dua for Rohingya Muslims

Read thrice after every Salah

رَبَّنَا لَا تَجْعَلْنَا فِتْنَةً لِلْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ وَ نَجِّنَا بِرَحْمَتِكَ مِنَ الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ

Our Rabb! Do not make us a victim of the unjust people and save us through your mercy from the disbelieving people.

Prescribed by: Hazrat Mufti Taqi Usmani (DB)



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New dwelling handed over to family in Hammarsdale

Darul Ihsan Centre handed-over a newly constructed two-bedroomed dwelling to the Shange family in Mophela at Hammarsdale on Saturday, 12 August 2017.

The home is one of several in the Centre's "Build-A-Home" outreach to the most deserving.

The decision to construct the home for the Shange family was based on several factors.

The head of the household - a single unemployed mother, Zamsile Mavis Shange - lived with her five children in a minuscule hut, virtually held together by mud.

The dwelling was completely vulnerable to all the harsh elements of nature.

The prospect and hope of the family to ever be able to live in better conditions was diminished by the fact that there is no income in the household and all the children are at school-going age.

Further, the eldest in the family, Sister Zaharah (19), is blind. Initially Maulana Husain Ahmed Mehtar, a farmer in the environs, made Darul Ihsan Centre aware of the plight of the family.

Project coordinator, Maulana Imran Vaid, immediately responded and contacted the local Nduna (Leader), Mr Gilbert Zondi, who promptly facilitated with the necessary requirements to proceed with the construction of the new dwelling for the Shange family.

Maulana Vaid said, "The site of construction was not easily accessible for the delivery of building material, however, within four months the house was fully constructed."

Over 150 people - many of them children from the Mophela Maktab - attended the handing-over of the new home to the Shange family on Saturday. The Nduna and many elders of the Mophela community also attended.

The programme started at about



11:00am with an introduction by Sheik Jabir, the Imam of the Mophela Maktab, followed by a Qiraat and Nasheeds performed by children from the Maktab.

Maulana Abdul Wahid, a representative of the Inchange Islamic Institute, introduced, welcomed and thanked the Darul Ihsan Centre team on behalf of the community and gave thanks to Allah Ta'ala for the realisation of the project.

Maulana Ahmed Kathrada from Darul Ihsan Centre gave an inspiring talk - translated into Zulu by Sheik Jabir - on Hazrat Musa Alayhis Salaam. He added that such projects were only possible because of the blessing/Barakah of Allah Ta'ala and the generous support of the Muslim community at large.

Maulana Husain Ahmed Mehtar rendered a Dua at the end of the programme and thereafter hot meals with cool drinks were provided by Darul Ihsan Centre to all who attended.

The Shange family expressed their most sincere gratitude to the Darul Ihsan Centre team for the new dwelling.

The home was furnished with a lounge suite, beds, a refrigerator and a stove from businesses who give their ongoing support to Darul Ihsan Centre.

Darul Ihsan Centre thanks all who contribute and assist through their volunteer effort and Duas for the success of our relief programmes to deserving communities.

Free Marriage Registration

Darul Ihsan Centre offers a free service of registration of marriages in accordance with the South African Marriage Act. In terms of the Act, for a marriage union to be recognised and legal, the marriage must be registered by any office of the Department of Home Affairs, or court or an authorised marriage officer appointed by the Department of Home Affairs.

Procedure for registration:

For marriage registration purposes, the following requirements must be adhered to:

a) An Ante-nuptial Contract excluding the accrual system must be drawn by an attorney. Costs in drawing up an ANC Contract may vary (You may contact Darul Ihsan for advice).

b) Both spouses must be South African citizens (possessing the green coded ID Document). Marriage officers are not permitted to register a marriage of any one or both spouses being of foreign origin. In such a case, only

the Home Affairs may register the marriage.

c) In the case where any one or both spouses being married (registered) previously, then a court decree of divorce must be produced.

At the time of registration, the following documents are required:

a) Both spouses must be present with the original ID documents.

b) Accompanied with three passport size photos of each spouse.

c) First page of the ANC Contract identifying the Protocol No.

In order to fast track the procedure, a "Marriage Registration Details" form is emailed for completion, thereafter a date is fixed for the actual registration.

Contact person - Maulana Ahmed Kathrada - Call 031 20747 49 or 083 500 7868



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Why did Nabi Muhammad ﷺ marry more than four wives when in Islam men are allowed to marry four women at one time?

Unwarranted criticism and condemnation of Islam and personalities of Islam has always been the approach of antagonist who wish to discredit Islam and Muslims. One widely propagated untruth is the matter regarding the number of wives of our Nabi Muhammad ﷺ.

A closer analysis of this matter will give us an understanding of the reasons and some wisdoms behind this.

At the outset we should understand that by virtue of being chosen as a Nabi, there were certain aspects of Nabi Muhammad ﷺ life that were exclusive to him, just as he was extraordinary in other aspects of his physical ability and spiritual capacity. The law, privilege or exception was not meant for the broader Muslim Ummah to practice upon. The rule of having more than four wives at one given time was one such exception. Everything that Nabi ﷺ did was guided with divine wisdom.

Nabi ﷺ married his first wife Khadija (Radiyallahu Anha) when he was 25 and she was 40 years of age and widowed twice before with children. He remained married to her alone for a full 25 years till her demise. His progeny prospered

from Khadija (Radiyallahu Anha). She passed away aged 65. At this point our beloved Nabi ﷺ was 50 years old. In Makkah the people labelled him a sorcerer, poet, insane one, yet nobody would criticise his chastity, modesty and purity. He was known to be the most truthful, honest and pure soul in the community.

At the age of 50, after the passing away of Khadija (Radiyallahu Anha), Nabi ﷺ married Saudah bint Zama'h (Radiyallahu Anha) who was also a widow of age.

Seven or eight months after Hijrat to Madinah Munawwarah, at the age of 54, Aaisha (Radiyallahu Anha) came into the blessed household of Nabi ﷺ. This was the only wife of Nabi ﷺ who was not previously married. Two years later in 3 A.H. Nabi ﷺ married Hafsa (Radiyallahu Anha) who was also a widow. A few days after that Nabi ﷺ married Zainub bint Khuzaima (Radiyallahu Anha) who was also a widow and passed away a few months later. A year later in 4 A.H. Nabi ﷺ married Umm Salamah (Radiyallahu Anha) who was also a widow and had children. In the year 5 A.H. when Nabi ﷺ was 58 he married Zainub bint Jahash (Radiyallahu Anha) in accordance with Divine command. The remaining wives entered the blessed

household in the last five years of the blessed life of the Master ﷺ.

The rules pertaining to the private life of a Nabi (messenger) and his domestic affairs constitute a major portion of Islam. The contribution of these 9 blessed wives (Radiyallahu Anhunna) to the propagation of Islam can be gauged from the fact that Hadhrat Aaisha (Radiyallahu Anha) alone narrated 2 210 Ahadith and Hadhrat Umm Salam (Radiyallahu Anha) narrated 368 Ahadith. Hafiz ibnul Qayyim (Rahmatullahi Alayhi) has stated in I'laamul Muwaqqi'een that the fataawa (religious edicts) issued by Umm Salamah (Radiyallahu Anha) can be compiled in a separate book. More than 200 Sahabah ﷺ learnt Hadith, Fiqh and jurisprudence from Aaisha (Radiyallahu Anha).

Another wisdom of marrying a number of wives was to promote Islam to the clans of the honourable Mothers of the Believers. The success of this strategy is amply borne out in the cases of Umm Habeebah (Radiyallahu Anha), Maimoonah (Radiyallahu Anha) and Juwairiyyah (Radiyallahu Anha). The Nikahs became a catalyst for these clans to be impressed and influenced by the goodness of Islam.

Yet another wisdom was to put an end to un-Islamic customs and practices like in the case of Zainub bint Jahash (Radiyallahu Anha). Hitherto, it was considered impermissible to marry the

divorced wife of an adopted son because he was regarded as a biological son. According to this belief, it was perceived that a man would be marrying his daughter-in-law ... whereas this is not the case. Zainub bint Jahash (Radiyallahu Anha) was previously married to the adopted son of Nabi ﷺ, Hadhrat Zayd bin Harithah (Radiyallahu Anhu).

Another wisdom was to show the great status of women in Islam that Juwairiyyah and Safiyyah ﷺ were slaves and became Mothers of the Believers. Nabi ﷺ freed both of them and married them.

Taking full cognisance of the above factual accounts including age and period of marriage, marriage to widows with children, marriage to ladies who were regarded as slaves and lower crust of society, the need to impart and propagate the finer aspects of Islamic practice, etc. there can be no doubt that such relationships had a superior purpose and intent than just physical gratification as alleged.

For further details on these issues kindly refer to:

1. *Ma'ariful Quraan [English]*, (Vol. 2, p. 197)
2. *Siratul Mustafa (Salallahu Alayhi wa Sallam) [English]*, (Vol. 3)
3. *Mothers of the Faithful (Introduction)*
4. *Kathratul Azwaaj li Saahibil Mi'raaj [Urdu]*

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Q & A

Q If the husband asks the wife for the ring back in the case of separation, is it permissible to return it or does it belong to the wife?

A In our environment, such items are generally made a gift to the wife. Hence, if there was no clear mention or directive of it being loaned to her, it would be considered a gift and the item will belong to the wife. Therefore, it is incorrect to ask for it to be returned.

Q What is the ruling regarding suicide victims? Should Janazah Salah be performed for them? Should they be buried in a separate section of the cemetery? Is it permissible to make Dua for their forgiveness?

A Suicide is a serious crime for which there is severe reproach recorded in the Hadith. However, we are not permitted to be judgemental over the outcome of this person's fate. Janazah Salah shall be performed upon such a person and he or she will be buried in a Muslim cemetery. It is permissible to make Dua for forgiveness as the circumstances under which this act had occurred will not be known to others

Q What can we do for the suffering Ummah? As Muslims in South Africa what are our responsibilities and what lessons should we derive from the trials of other Muslims? Kindly advise.

A The Muslim Ummah is likened to one body and thus every Muslim should feel the pain and difficulty of another Muslim. Many Muslims are being persecuted purely on the basis of their faith, because they are the true reciters of the Kalimah. They are denied their basic human and religious rights only because they are Muslim. Therefore, Muslims are duty-bound to assist and pray for their oppressed brethren and adopt an approach that will draw the mercy and protection of Allah Ta'ala.

Financial assistance where the conditions are dire is an immediate response to save lives. Even a few rands can make a difference. If all rally collectively then this charity

will be a means of our forgiveness and protection.

Moreover, it is critical for us to introspect the condition of our lives and lifestyle. We should become cognizant of the difficulties that prevail in our own communities and get involved in helping those around us. Developing a spirit of concern and giving will create an environment of caring and sharing. In this way every person shall become a humanitarian who gives preference to others over himself. Our character and interaction with others is critical. We need to move away from selfishness, racism, discrimination and oppression. Every person should strive to develop good manners, patience, tolerance and generosity.

Additionally, South African Muslims need to become truly loyal and obedient, enhance Dawah, move away from a life of immodesty, lavish spending, extravagance; inculcate a life of simplicity, show compassion and kindness to all creation, be polite and compassionate to all and display the true beauty of Islam in all aspects of our lives.

May Allah Ta'ala protect us from all evil, injustice and oppression. May Allah Ta'ala allow us to mend our ways and alleviate the suffering of humanity.

Q Does our Shariah allow boycotting of products of a company or country for political reasons? The products could be halaal suitable.

A Boycotting products and companies that are actively assisting towards an unjust cause is an established strategy to pursue if actioned and executed effectively. Such a strategy can prove to be an effective weapon in the current situation where the Ummah is generally unable to defend itself from oppression. If there is a cogent boycott and strategy set up for a certain cause then Muslims are encouraged to join the boycott and give weight to it for the cause of Islam and the oppressed. Since this strategy is in the category of permissibility, it should not be imposed upon anyone, nor should anyone who does not join the boycott be condemned.

Importantly, together with the financial boycott strategy, Muslims should 'boycott' the ways and lifestyle of the antagonists as this

will be more pronounced and 'hurtful' than the economic boycott.

Q Which parent is rightful of custody of the children during separation and after divorce?

A The aspect of child custody is sensitive for the affected parties considering the parents have undergone a divorce which in itself is a highly challenging ordeal especially for the children. It is inevitable that the children will be affected and traumatised by the breakdown of the marriage. In order to minimise the trauma for the children the parents should separate their marriage squabbles and differences from the responsibility of the children. The custody and visitation of the children should not be used to avenge or score points against each other. Sadly, this has become common among parents undergoing divorce and marriage breakdown.

Parents should behave responsibly and consider the best interest of the child when negotiating the settlement. Mutual understanding and compromise should prevail to get the best outcome for the child.

In terms of the broader rules of custody in terms of the Shariah, generally in the case of divorce, the mother will be eligible for custody of a boy till the age of 7 and a girl till the age of 9 as long as she does not remarry. If she remarries then the custody will be deferred to her mother.

A girl from the age of 10 and a boy from the age of 8 will be in the custody of his/her father. If the father is proven to be incapable then custody shall be deferred to the father's father, and then the father's brother, etc.

Q The parents of my wife are expecting lobola from me. What do I do?

A You should endeavour to explain to her family the Islamic concept of marriage, its simplicity, objectives and easiness. These concept of Mahr (dower), dowry, giving of gifts and other Sunnah practices should be conveyed through the assistance of a reputable Alim. If a sound explanation is tendered and reason and understanding prevails then you may give the family a gift/gesture of goodwill

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.

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Hajj & Qurbani programme at Masjid Bilal

After a successful Pre-Ramadan programme held earlier in the year, another programme was held over the weekend, this time to highlight the seasonal topics of Hajj and Qurbani. Over 400 people converged at Masjid Bilal in Castlehill, Newlands West for the “Hajj & Qurbani Programme” on Sunday, 27 August 2017.

The programme - an educational initiative of Darul Ihsan Centre on the significance and laws pertaining to Hajj and Qurbani (Udhiya) - was presented in Zulu and English to many indigenous African Muslims coming from the vast surrounding areas of Lindelani, Siyanda, KwaDabeka, KwaMashu, Ntuzuma, Richmond Farm, Newlands East and Newlands West.

The resident Imam at Masjid Bilal, Sheikh Abdullah Zondi - and director of the programme - introduced two guest speakers, Maulana Saeed Ncane and Maulana Bilal Islam, who delivered inspirational discourses on the essentials of Hajj and the significance of Qurbani. A young Imam from KwaDabeka, Sheikh Ismail Dlamini, gave a vibrant talk on having good friends which captivated the attention of all at the gathering.

The programme was interspaced with a Qur'anic recitation, Zikr and Nasheed. An opportunity was given



to participants to field questions on the topics discussed. Numerous questions were received and responded to by Maulana Yusuf Jazbhay of the Darul Ihsan Fatwa Department. This segment proved to be lively and beneficial.

Attendees said they appreciated and enjoyed the 'spiritual atmosphere' of the programme. Some expressed that they felt a deep sense of 'unity' with all present. The programme closed with Zuhr and lunch for all who attended.

The “Hajj & Qurbani” programme is one of several initiatives taking place at Masjid Bilal and it is hoped that many more will be presented in the future, Insha Allah.

All programmes presented at Masjid Bilal are aimed at uplifting our communities through education, social cohesion and Dawah.

Darul Ihsan Centre thanks all who volunteered, contributed and assisted in the success of this programme.

Basic counselling workshop conducted in Durban

Subsequent to hosting the 'Basic Counselling Workshop 1,' Darul Ihsan Centre held the 'Basic Counselling Workshop 2' for sisters eager and committed to help address the multitude of socially related problems plaguing our community.

Muslim society is confronted with many issues and challenges which place a great strain on family and marital relationships ranging from divorce, abuse, trauma, violence, dereliction of duty, mental and physical disorders, suicide, inability to cope with bereavement and loss, poverty, delinquency - and the list continues.

It is hoped that through intensive and effective Islamic counselling and awareness programmes, these challenges and conflicts can be managed better, thus reducing the rate of problems and the negative impact on society.

The workshop was held on 16 and 17 August 2017 (Wednesday & Thursday) at the Akram Beemath Conference Centre in Sea Cow Lake.

Aspects covered in the workshop were:

- The importance of counselling
- The concept of Islamic counselling
- The role of a counsellor
- Challenges of present day living and its solutions
- Defining the self and attaining our purpose in life
- Understanding relationships
- Dealing with conflict
- Creating an environment of Ihsan

It is envisaged that this training will guide and assist the participants to render formal help - at no cost - to the Muslim community, Insha Allah. Your continued duas are requested for the success of such initiatives that are direly needed in our community.

Female Ghusal Programme

A successful, practical Ghusal demonstration programme for females was held on Saturday, 12 August 2017 at the Iqbalia Masjid, Unit 2 in Chatsworth. Eighteen females attended the programme.

The use of the 'Ghusal room' adjoined to the Masjid enhanced the learning experience of the females.

Darul Ihsan Centre hosts and facilitates many such community programmes. To host a free programme in your area kindly contact our offices.

Al Ihsan 'Clinic Day' in Umlazi

Darul Ihsan Centre hosted the 'Al Ihsan Clinic Day' at 'V' Section, Umlazi on Sunday, 13 August 2017. The 'Al Ihsan Clinic Day' is yet another one of the organisations sustained community upliftment programmes. The primary intention of this project is to provide general health check-ups and treatment for those who may not be able to commute to, access or afford such services in their respective areas.

The venue for the Clinic Day was ideally positioned at the 'V' Section Musallah and arrangements were facilitated by the Dhooma and Suliman families.

Six doctors, five pharmacists, three nurses and caregivers volunteered their services for the Clinic Day. A well-stocked dispensary was also set up.

Ulama and staff members of Darul Ihsan Centre coordinated the programme and assisted for all allied duties.

The clinic day began at 10:00am with the admission of about 175 senior - mostly pensioner - female and male patients.

All patients were first screened followed by a check-ups starting with blood sugar level checks, blood pressure tests, etc.

Free medication was administered where required and referral letters were also handed to patients requiring specific attention at public health facilities.

2017 Bee-keeping Course

Darul Ihsan Centre presented a basic bee-keeping course in Pietermaritzburg.

The course was presented over three evenings - from Monday 14 August to Wednesday 16 August 2017 at the Nizamia Muslim School hall in East Street.

Seventeen adults attended the course which was presented by Brother Zubair Essack.

The introductory course included a discussion on the Qur'anic and Islamic references to bees and the benefits of honey.

Discussions on all aspects of the functioning of a bee-hive, the equipment required, bee-removal,



Refreshments were provided and hot lunch packs with cool drinks were handed to all patients.

The clinic day programme ended at 2:30PM. The 'Clinic Day' community project was made possible through the generous and on-going contributions of the Muslim community.

Darul Ihsan Centre takes this opportunity to convey condolences to the family of the late Mohammed Iqbal Bhayat who passed away in October. Mohammed Iqbal was sincere well-wisher of Darul Ihsan and actively involved in the clinic day programme. May Allah Ta'ala reward his efforts and grant him Jannah.

The Centre also expresses its gratitude to the entire medical team, the Dhooma and Suliman families and all other volunteers for the success of this project.

bee-keeping as a hobby and a business were presented.

The programme was enhanced by a practical demonstration of the use of all equipment needed for bee-keeping.

The Jamiat (Midlands' branch) supported the programme and Maulana Iqbal Rawat and Maulana Muhammed Bhayla arranged the venue and coordinated the programme.

Pupils and teachers from the Nizamia Muslim School have expressed interest in the course and plans are afoot to host the course for them, Insha Allah.

Darul Ihsan Centre has also received calls from other areas for the course to be hosted.

Made in Heaven marriage workshops held nationally

A series of marriage and pre-marriage workshops were convened through the Social Department of Darul Ihsan Centre in various towns and cities of South Africa in August 2017.

The aim of these workshops is to educate Muslim women and enrich their lives by helping them to make marriage a meaningful journey of bliss, piety and eternal happiness.

The programme focused on teaching the participants how to navigate the challenges and discover opportunities to achieve success and happiness through marriage in both worlds.

The workshops were conducted by Muallima A. Peer, a counsellor, mentor and teacher with extensive experience in the management and nurturing of marital and social relationships.

Workshops were held in Johannesburg, Newcastle, Estcourt, Ladysmith, Phoenix and Durban.

With the grace of Allah Ta'ala the workshops were well received and attended by many single and married persons. Participants gave positive feedback on the workshops. Many said that they were motivated and inspired by the programme.

Some comments that we received were:

"Inspiring, a very good approach towards changing the mindset"

"Extremely beneficial, very informative"

"...very insightful, left with lots of food for thought"

"Excellent, very motivational...an exceptional speaker"

"Very educational from a mother's point of view to educate children"

Darul Ihsan Centre - in conjunction with participating communities - convenes the Marriage Workshops on an ongoing basis.

We hope to facilitate more such programmes in other areas of the country, Insha Allah.

'Drug Awareness Drive' in Empangeni & Richards Bay

On Friday 3 November 2017 the 'Drug Awareness Drive' ('DAD'), an initiative of Darul Ihsan Centre presented a series of educational programmes on drugs and substance abuse in the KZN towns of Empangeni and Richards Bay. The 'DAD' team comprised 3 Ulama representing Darul Ihsan Centre.

Maulana Zakaria Murchie, a drug and substance abuse researcher and specialist and Maulana Mohamed Ameer, a Social Counsellor, Moulana Abdul Haq Badat a Pharmacist, delivered a presentation to educators at Empangeni Muslim school. Maulana Murchie focused on the harsh realities of drug and substance abuse in our society and Maulana Ameer focused on the destructive impact of this scourge on our families and communities.

Jumuah talks were delivered by the Ulama at Empangeni and Richards Bay. Later that afternoon, two special programmes were conducted for the benefit of the mothers and sisters.

The main programme after Maghrib was an interactive programme with a slide presentation, video clips, Q & A session and dissemination of literature - at the Empangeni Madrasah Hall.

DAD thanks the Ulama and community members of the Empangeni and Richards Bay for their hospitality and coordination of an initiative which is at the heart of many. The feedback received was encouraging.

May Allah Ta'ala make it easy for those whose lives have been affected by this scourge and protect us and our families from it.



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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.



Visit our website for the latest news and letters to the editor www.darulihsan.com

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