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## **YEARS IN ARGENTINA**

Reflections by Moulana Junaid Moolla of South Africa on his decade long service as an Imam in Argentina

With the Grace of Allah Ta'ala, in 2011, I was given the opportunity to serve as an Alim and Imam in Argentina. Ten years later I am on vacation in my homeland South Africa and upon reflection of the last 10 years of my journey I would say it's been: "incredible, awesome, unbelievable!"

### The 8th largest country

Argentina is the world's 8th largest country that covers most of the South American continent. It has a population of about 45 million and the national language is Spanish with major religion being Roman Catholics. The largest city is Buenos Aires with a population of about 15 million people. Interestingly Argentina is home to the largest Muslim community in Latin America, numbering around 400,000 people or 1% of the total population.

### Embarking on a mission into the unknown

When I embarked on this unknown mission to this far off country I never imagined that I would last 10 years there. I felt I would be back home much sooner. Alhamdulillah, it has been a special and most fulfilling journey, the experience worth every moment. I still recall my maiden flight to

Buenos Aires in 2011, landing at night with my wife and children. After customs and emigration, we boarded a bus for a 6 hour journey to the south of Argentina to a city called Mar del Plata. Here we would wake up every morning to a new challenge in life, something we were not accustomed to at home. Things at home were pretty routine and simple. Each of these challenges made us think and reflect over the comforts we enjoyed in South Africa, Besides the comforts and ease, what really gave us a sense off appreciation was the benefit and fulfilment of living in a community with a sound Islamic environment and structures for education and learning.

### Lack of Salah facilities and Halaal food

The easiness of accessing a Masjid, Salah facilities, Halal food, Madrasahs, organisations and Islamic services is something we take for granted in South Africa. In many parts of the world these privileges are difficult to access. As an example, in the whole of Argentina there are no more than 15 Masiids.

We took residence in a city where Jumuah Salah was hardly performed, and there was

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no central venue where Salah could be performed. The convenience of finding Halal food with ease at the press of a button was non-existent - this was a new reality we had to deal with. It was one of the many struggles we faced in our new country, Argentina. Sadly the Muslim migrants in Argentina, like many in the Latin America, assimilated themselves with the local traditions and population to the extent that barely any trace of Islam was left.

#### Muslims lost their way

The Arab diaspora in Argentina began in the late 19th century. The majority of Arab Argentines are either Lebanese or Syrian. Interethnic marriages in the Arab community, regardless of religious affiliation is very common. As a result, Muslims have relinguished their mother tongue, Arabic, their culture and religion. Arabs were classified as Turks because what is modern day Lebanon and Syria was a territory of the Turkish Ottoman Empire.

In the city of Buenos Aires, a European



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architectural concrete jungle is where we resided for the past 9 years. This city was a stronghold of the Catholics at one time. Now, it is a sprawling city of immorality, hedonism and atheism. Abandonment of religious values has led to spiritual bankruptcy, depression, anxiety, and mental illness. A whole host of social ills has gripped the nation making people desperate for love. guidance, happiness, peace and contentment.

#### Dawah efforts have made a difference

By the grace of Allah and the untiring efforts of Tablighi initiatives and Islamic organisations from South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and other countries, Muslims are gradually becoming conscious of their faith. Initially we had a Jumuah congregation averaging just thirty people, now with the Grace of Allah Ta'ala there up to 250 congregants for Jumuah. Due to the rising awareness of Islam, there are more Salah facilities and Halal food available. Immigrants from Senegal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and North Africa play an important role in the upliftment and development of the Muslim community.

With the collective efforts of Muslims both local and abroad, there is a revival of Islam in this part of the world. However, a lot more effort is required. I take this opportunity to invite Muslims to focus their efforts to this continent and make dua for the people to embrace the truth. May Allah Ta'ala accept the efforts of the Ulama and their families who have made great sacrifices by migrating to these countries and serving Islam under challenging conditions. May Allah Ta'ala let the winds of guidance spread throughout the world.



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### **BENEFITS & REWARDS of illness**

As Muslims we seek the best of this world and the Hereafter. Every person desires good health and seeks protection from illness as taught to us in the Quran and Hadith. However, Allah Ta'ala in His Wisdom decides what is better for a person. At times, Allah Ta'ala afflicts a person with illness that becomes a means of forgiveness, cleansing and elevation.

### Seek protection from harm and illness

A companion who had become ill was suffering due to a Dua which he made asking Allah to give him all the punishment due to him in this world so he will not suffer any pain in the Hereafter. Nabi # advised him not to make such a Dua, and taught him to say, "O Allah grant me the best of this world and the best of the Hereafter and save me from the punishment of the fire." (02:201) The Sahabi # recovered from his illness.

### Illness - a subtle and concealed bounty

Outwardly, illness is seen as an adversity due to the pain and difficulty that is brought about by it. The wisdom and benefit of every bounty is not apparent to us, but we have firm conviction in the words of Nabi swho said, "How wonderful is the state of a Believer! Every condition is good for him, and this is for no one except the Believer; if he finds himself in a favourable situation, he expresses gratitude and this is good for him; and if he is afflicted with adversity, he exercises patience and this is good for him." (Sahih Muslim)...READ MORE

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### **Unity amongst Muslims**

Hazrat Abu Huraira reports that Rasulullah said: Do not harbour jealousy for a fellow Muslim, nor bid him out of a transaction by raising the price and do not nurse aversion or enmity and do not enter into a transaction when others have entered into that transaction and be servants of Allah as brothers. A Muslim is the brother of a Muslim. He neither oppresses him nor humiliates him nor belittles him.

The piety is here, (and while saying so) he pointed towards his chest thrice. It is a serious evil for a Muslim that he should look down upon his brother Muslim. All things of a Muslim are inviolable for his brother in faith: his blood, his wealth and his honour.

Muslims are intrinsically connected and linked. Islam fosters unity, brotherhood and a good, cordial nature amongst fellow believers. In the Hadith, three qualities are emphasised:

- 1. A Muslim does not oppress a fellow Muslim
- 2. A Muslim does not humiliate a fellow
- 3. A Muslim does not belittle a fellow Muslim

The above three qualities demands Taqwa which resides in the heart. Thus in these times of strife, let us ensure that we uphold the teachings of our Deen. Let us honour every Muslim and ensure that the culture of unity and brotherhood prevails.

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Help Darul Ihsan to promote reading in our Madrasahs and community!

Darul Ihsan has launched the Al Ihsan Micro Library project and invites you to Sponsor a Micro Library, which will be placed in Madrasahs, especially in underprivileged communities.

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### **Virtues of illness**

Illness is a blessing and a means of forgiveness of sins

Just as Nabi \$\mathbb{\text{\t

1. Hazrat Abu Sa'eed Khudri anarrates that Nabi said: "When a Muslim is afflicted by fatigue, disease, sorrow, grief, hurt or distress, to such an extent that even if a thorn pricks him, Allah Ta'ala forgives his (minor) sins by means of that." (Bukhari and Muslim)... READ MORE



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## **IDDAT**

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### Dua for the deceased

This dua was made frequently by Nabi 🗯

اَللّٰهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لَهُ وَارْحَمْهُ وَعَافِهِ وَاعْفُ عَنْهُ وَأَكْرِمْ نُزُلَهُ وَوَسِّعْ مُدْخَلَهُ وَاغْسِلْهُ بِالْمَاءِ وَالثَّلْجِ وَالْبَرَدِ وَنَقِّهِ مِنَ الْخَطَايَا كَمَا يُنَقِّ لِلثَّوْبُ الْأَبْيَضُ مِنَ الدَّنِينِ

O Allah! Forgive him and have mercy on him, grant him wellbeing and pardon him. Be generous to him and cause his entrance to be wide and wash him with water and snow and hail. Cleanse him of his transgressions as white cloth is cleansed of stains.

Nasai and Bo

### The great months are here

Rajab, Sha'ban and Ramadan are special months for a Muslim as they herald the onset of great opportunities for forgiveness and great reward.

In Rajab, the seeds of good are planted by increasing virtuous deeds - these seeds are watered in the blessed month of Sha'ban and ultimately the reward of the toil is reaped in Ramadan.

Dua to be recited regularly in the month of Rajab and Sha'ban

اَللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ لَنا فِيْ رَجَبَ وَشَعْبانَ وَبَلِّ غْنَا رَمَضَانَ

O Allah, grant us blessings in Rajab and Sha'ban and cause us to reach Ramadan

(Musnad Ahmad)

### Etiquette of acquiring knowledge

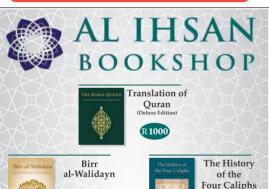
Seeking knowledge is incumbent upon every Muslim and should be a lifelong occupation.

Rasulullah \* would ask Allah for beneficial knowledge, and he would seek protection against knowledge which is unbeneficial.

For knowledge to be beneficial, it is essential that the etiquette of seeking knowledge is observed, together with hard work and diligence.

Some guidelines for seeking beneficial knowledge are as follows:

- 1) Correct Intention Develop and adopt sincerity by seeking knowledge for the pleasure of Allah Ta'ala and use the acquired expertise to serve the creation.
- 2) Respect Show utmost respect to one's teachers, colleagues, staff of the institution and the various means of acquiring knowledge e.g. being obedient to their instructions, caring for learning material, equipment, etc. True success cannot be achieved without respect...READ MORE











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### **0&A**

I would like to know which are the ash hurul hurum? The 4 sacred months?

The 4 sacred months are: Rajab, Zul Qa'dah, Zul Hijjah and Muharram.

The Quran says: The number of months in the sight of Allah is twelve (in a year), so ordained by Him the day He created the heavens and the earth; from among them four are sacred. (Surah Taubah)

Hazrat Abu Bakrah anarrates that Rasulullah said: "...The year consists of twelve months, four of which are sacred. Three from them are consecutive: Zul Qa'dah, Zul Hijjah and Muharram. And [the fourth sacred month] is Rajab..." (Bukhari & Muslim)

What is the exact date when the incident of miraculous event of Me'raj had taken place? Is there any special reward or significance for fasting on that day?

There are numerous differing opinions when the Me'raj had taken place. However, the more popular date is that it took place on the night of 27th Rajab. There is no authentically established virtue for fasting on this day nor any specific practice during this particular night.

I would like to know, which takes precedence: making up missed Ramadan fasts or optional fasts in Shabaan?

If you have Qadha fasts then the Qadha fasts take precedence over the Nafl fasts.

## Is hunting allowed in the sacred months?

In principle, hunting is permissible in all months of the year including the sacred Islamic months. Hunting is prohibited for a person who is within the boundaries of the Haram and one who is in a state of Ihram for Hajj or Umrah.

Is there a time frame for separation in marriage?

A Nikah shall only terminate if one of the factors or processes by which a marriage ends are found. Mere separation of the spouses, physical or other, does not terminate the marriage.

Regardless of the period of separation, and regardless of the fact that the husband and wife may not have met, spoken or seen each other for whatever period, the marriage remains intact as long as no divorce/Talaq has been effected. There is a general misconception that a lengthy separation terminates marriage. This is incorrect.

I'm getting married soon, and I would like to know what are the prerequisites for a Walimah to take place? Does the Nikah have to be physically consummated? What period of time should there be between the Nikah and the Walimah? Will the Nikah and Walimah be invalid if the marriage isn't physically consummated?

The Walimah should be held ideally after the physical consummation of the Nikah.

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However, it is permissible if it is held after the couple have spent a sufficient amount of time in seclusion together in which they could have consummated the marriage.

If a husband gives talag to his wife, does the wife have to return her wedding gifts and Mahr to the exhusband or does it belong to her?

In the case where a husband divorces his wife, without the wife requesting a Talaag in lieu of her returning the Mahr, then the wife does not have to return any Mahr as the Talaag was given of the husband's own will

If the items were given as a gift, then the wife is not obliged to return the gift items.

Can a brother give Zakat to his sister or Sadagah would be more preferable

Zakat can be given to one's siblings provided they are deserving and eligible to receive Zakat. There is a double reward of assisting poor deserving family members with one's charities. One is for charity and the other for assisting one's extended family and maintaining ties with them.

Is sleeping with your legs facing the Qibla permissible?

Stretching the legs in the direction of someone or something of status and worthy of respect like one's parents,

teachers, the pious, the Ouran or the Ka'bah, etc. is considered a form of disrespect.

The renowned Hanafi Jurist, Allamah Shaami (Rahimahullah), has mentioned that stretching the legs towards the Oiblah without a valid excuse is Makrooh undesirable) because it is disrespectful.

If a person was sedated on a ventilator for a few weeks should he perform Oaza of the missed Salah when he recovers?

if the patient remains unconscious for less than 6 Salah then Oaza must be made for the missed Salahs. If the state of unconsciousness was more than 6 Salahs then it is not necessary to make Qaza of the missed Salahs in such a state.

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.



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### **Should I tweet, post or delete?**

While most people understand the basic etiquette of real-world interactions, many have yet to understand how to behave when using social media.

Social media has made it trendy to tell just about everyone where you are and what you are doing in a way that no one regards as either intrusive or objectionable.

The situation gets worse when private, intimate or sensitive information about others is shared without their permission or knowledge.

There seems to be an obsession to electronically capture and share everything that happens without considering whether the victim is in an accident, giving birth, being robbed or killed.

This is a serious violation of another person's dignity and privacy...**READ MORE** 



### **SADAQA JARIYA**

Nabi said: "After the believer dies and whilst he is in his grave, the reward for seven types of good actions continue flowing for him:

- 1. Knowledge that he taught and spread
- 2. A river he caused to flow
- 3. A water-well he dug
- 4. A tree he planted
- 5. A Masjid he built
- 6. A Qur'an he bequeathed
- 7. A pious child who will seek forgiveness for him after his death."



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### Whats Happening at Darul Ihsan

## Relief outreaches in Newcastle & Dannhauser - KwaZulu-Natal

On Tuesday, 15 December 2020 the Relief Team of Darul Ihsan Humanitarian Centre partnered with the Newcastle and Dannhauser municipalities in community outreaches.

The team - in partnership with the KZN Premier's Office - distributed 85 food hampers to needy residents of Normandien Farm, Ward 21 in Newcastle.

Programme Director Mr T L Mahlaba from the Premier's office welcomed and expressed his thanks and appreciation to the team for travelling to Newcastle, participating in the programme and providing the food hampers for the needy residents.

Ms S A Yende, the Speaker for the Councillor of the Newcastle Municipality and Ward 21 Councillor Ms Molefe - in their address - echoed their heartfelt appreciation and thanks to Darul Ihsan Humanitarian Centre for the provision of the food hampers...READ MORE



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### **Helping Others**

The Welfare Department of Darul Ihsan Humanitarian Centre provides a wide range of services to the needy community.

Darul Ihsan Humanitarian Centre receives many used items - mostly domestic goods - from the community for distribution to the needy.

Darul Ihsan Humanitarian Centre humbly requests our donor community that used items they contribute should be both permissible and usable, i.e., in good condition - whether it be clothing, furniture, cutlery, linen, tools, etc.

Any item contributed - no matter how menial - is most appreciated and considered a 'prized gift' by many a needy person.

We urge people to contribute goods - used or unused - to DHC for distribution to the needy...READ MORE

### Special programme held for Muslim sisters in the Kingdom of Eswatini (Swaziland)

On Sunday, 13 December 2020 the Eswatini Muslim Women Organisation (EMWO) held its first Jalsa (sisters programme) in the Kingdom of Eswatini (Swaziland). The event was among the first of its kind in the Kingdom with attendance of sisters from across six regions of Swaziland. Darul Ihsan Centre was privileged to participate and support the programme.

About 110 Muslim sisters from across the Kingdom including Manzini, Nhlangano, Zulwini, Mbabane, Luhlangotsini and Mphaka participated...READ MORE



### Darul Ihsan Media Desk

### Turkey to open schools in war-torn Syria

ISTANBUL: Ankara has announced that it will open a health care vocational school and a medical faculty in the Cobanbey (Al-Ra'i) town of Syria near the Turkish border.

The surprise decision was published in Turkey's Official Gazette on Friday night.

Cobanbey, in northern Syria in Aleppo, is a predominantly Turkmen town under Syrian opposition control. The medical school will be established under the auspices of Turkey's Health Sciences University.

While some experts consider such moves a boost to the region's damaged social infrastructure, others say Ankara may face accusations from Syria of foreign meddling violating its territorial sovereignty.

Since 2018, Turkey has been building hospital university faculties in Syria, including in Afrin, Al-Bab and Idlib, to encourage the return of Syrian...READ MORE

### First mosque opens in Tompkins County after 20 years of groundwork

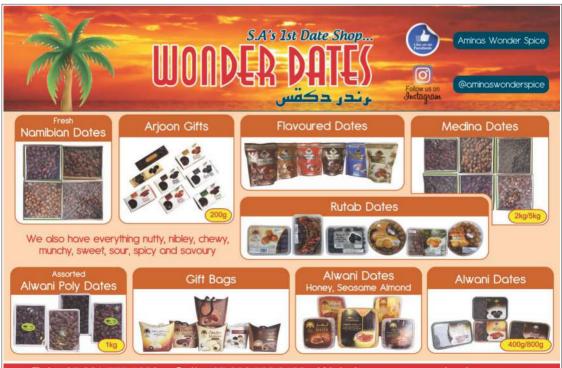
Ithaca and Tompkins County in the US pride themselves on being an open door to the rest of the world

For the local Muslim community, that challenge is especially profound, as they have long lacked their own mosque.

This is something that the Muslim community has long accepted in the course of living their lives here. Tompkins County is not a highly-populated place, and the local Muslim community is a very small proportion of that.

There are about fifty local families who have chosen to settle down in Tompkins County, as well as a sizable contingent of Cornell and Ithaca College students who partake in prayer as they go about their education...READ MORE

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