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ISLAM IS OUR LIFE

Our deen Our breath ...

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Islam is our life

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What's ISLAM ?

Mushrifa Zaaman

ALLAH which means the name of One. Who has the truthful existence and who deserves to be worshiped and to hold names and titles of perfection, used in Qur'an.

ALLAHU TA'ALA created this universe with perfection and marvelous organization. Out of this, HE chose our planet for life. HE created everything in this planet, which is needed to sustain life. HE made it neither too hard nor too soft, neither too hot nor too cold, unlike other planets. HE created an atmosphere around the earth, which is quite moderate and sustainable for life. He decorated the skies with the sun, the moon and the millions of stars. HE created the vast oceans, the planet and the animal kingdoms. Finally, HE created the man. On the contrary the universe is very important for the survival of man. This fact is clearly mentioned in Qur'an and Hadith.

ALLAH says in the Holy Qur'an:
'And He has subjected to you whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth - all from Him. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought.' - Surat-AL-Jithiyah, Verse 13.

Surah Ikhlas or Ah Tauhid:

1. Say, O Muhammad(SAW), He is ALLAH (the) One.
2. ALLAH us-samad (All-the self sufficient Master, whom all creatures need. He neither eats nor drinks.
3. He neither begets nor was he begotten.
4. And there is none equal or comparable to HIM. In the Islamic view, "

It is impossible for the human mind to form an adequate consumption of GOD as HE is in this eternal and absolute being. The creatures cannot comprehend the creator. According to the Qur'an. No (human) encompasses (all) vision. On the other hand, Islam does not demand blind belief. The Qur'an tells us a great deal about the nature of the Divine, and it describes GOD by a number of

terms called 'The Most Beautiful Names'. Islam is based on the following five principles which a Muslim must follow.

- To testify
- To perform (Iqaamath) and As-Salat .
- To pay Zakaath.
- To perform Hajj.
- To observe Saum during the month of Ramadhan.

1. To testify:

Shahaadatan , one who has decided to become muslim says the following words in order to enter the fold of Islam, which is called the Shahaadatan.

Ash-hadu an laa illahaa ill-ALLAH, wa-ash-hadu anna Muhammadan abduhu wa-rasooluh.

(I testify that there is no true deity except ALLAH, and I testify that Muhammad (SAW) is the slave and messenger).

This statement is the key to the doors of Islam. Whoever utters it shunts all other religions besides Islam and all beliefs which differ from it. Through this statement he receives and he must fulfill the rights which all other must fulfill.

2. To perform Salaah:

It is obligatory upon you to establish the Salaah, for it is the back-bone of the religion without it, one's Islam cannot stand upright.

The Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu Wa-



alaihiwassalam) said:

'Narrated Ibn Umar: Allah's Apostle said: Islam is based on (the following) five (principles): 1. To testify that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah and Muhammad is Allah's Apostle. 2. To offer the (compulsory congregational) prayers dutifully and perfectly. 3. To pay Zakat (i.e. obligatory charity) . 4. To perform Hajj. (i.e. Pilgrimage to Mecca) 5. To observe fast during the month of Ramadan.' – Hadith Al-Bhukari,(Belief-7).

There are five prayers during the day and night which are obligatory upon every Muslim. All men should establish the Salaah along with congregation(Jamaath in Masjid, unless they have a valid excuse, while the women should pray on their house).



3. To pay Zakaath:

Upon becoming Muslim, one must pay the Zakaath to those who deserve it. The Zakaath is a right from the rights of ALLAH (Subhana Wa-Tha'ala16) which a Muslim must pay to his brothers for the poor and needy to cover their requirements and save them from humility of asking others.

ALLAH (SWT17) says in the Qur'an:

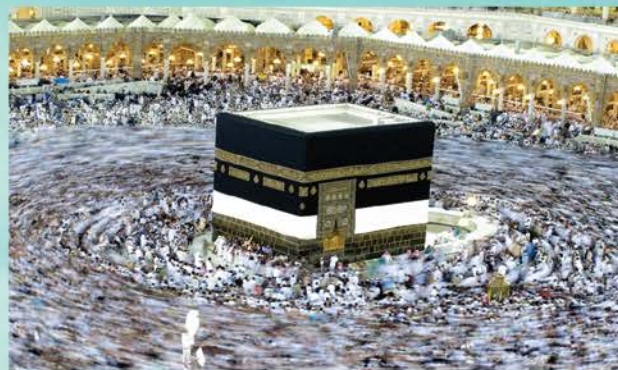
'And they were not commanded except to worship Allah , [being] sincere to Him in religion, inclining to truth, and to establish prayer and to give Zakah. And that is the correct religion.'



4. To perform Hajj:

Upon being a Muslim, one must perform Hajj, once in his lifetime. Hajj is the pilgrimage, one makes to the sacred house of ALLAH (the Ka'bah)

in order to perform certain rites at specific places at specific times. This pillar of Islam is obligatory upon every Muslim, male or female, who is sane and has reached the age of puberty, once in their lifetime, if they have the physical and monetary ability. If a person has an incurable disease which prevents him from performing Hajj, but he does have enough money, he must assign someone to perform Hajj for him. But, if a person does not have more money than what he needs to fulfill his daily requirements or those whom he supports, Hajj is not obligation upon him.



ALLAH (SWT) says:

'In it are manifest signs (for example), the Maqam (place) of Ibrahim (Abraham); whosoever enters it, he attains security. And Hajj (pilgrimage to Makkah) to the House (Kabah) is a duty that mankind owes to Allah, those who can afford the expenses (for one's conveyance, provision and residence); and whoever disbelieves [i.e. denies Hajj (pilgrimage to Makkah)], then he is a disbeliever of Allah], then Allah stands not in need of any of the 'Alamin (mankind and jinns).' – Surah Al- Imraan, Verse 97.

5. Fasting:

Upon becoming Muslim, one must fast in the month of Ramadhan, every year, one must abstain from anything that breaks the fast such as food, drinks, and sexual intercourse, from the time of Fajr until the time of Magrib²⁰ as an act of obedience to ALLAH.

ALLAH (SWT) says that:

'O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous'. – Surah Al-Baqrah, Verse 183.

To be continued.....

Qur'an & the Big Bang

Fathima Azeera. B

The religion of Islam is the acceptance of and obedience to the teaching of ALLAH (s.w.t) which he revealed to his last Prophet Muhammad (SAW). At the age of 40 (years 610), Muhammad (SAW) received his first revelation from ALLAH through the angel Gabriel. The revelation continued for 23 years, and they are collectively known as the Qur'an. The Qur'an, the last revealed word of ALLAH is the primary source of every Muslim's faith, practice and guidance. It deals with all the subjects which concern the human beings. It is important to point out that while it (Qur'an) is not a science text book. Yet, the Qur'an mentions numerous scientific facts long before they were discovered.

Expansion and description of the universe with Scientific facts about the universe, and comparing them to the Qur'an:

Scientific facts regarding the expansion and the description of the universe that were stated in the Qur'an 1400+years ago

The universe was at the very beginning some 13 billion years ago, we think it was tiny, an infinitesimal nugget of space, and then something happened triggering the most colossal explosion in history this is known as big bang, and now we are inside the big bang, the birth of our universe. What's amazing is that in the entire universe, nothing is more powerful than the colossal explosion that created it all. It is mentioned 1400 years ago in the holy

Qur'an (51 : 47)"and the heaven we built (it) with might"

A violent fireball of unimaginable heat. Only the minutest fraction of a second has passed, but all of this way puny compared to what was about to happen propelled by new surge of internal energy, the universe suddenly entered on incredible period of inflation it expanded a hundred trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion times. It is mentioned 1400 years ago in the holy qur'an (51: 47)"and the heaven we built (it) with might. And we are indeed expanding (it)". (this verse correctly states two scientifically accurate facts about the universe: The might with which the universe was created.)

Quran's description of the "big bang", Scientific facts about the creation of universe through the big bang, and compare them to the Qur'an:



'Geoffrey Landis (A physicist of NASA)"when we look out at the universe and look at the outer distant galaxies we see that they are all away from us, that they are all feeling away from us, that they are

all moving outward at huge velocities, you extrapolate that all the way back, you see that one time, may be 13 or 14 billion years ago, everything that there was must have been compressed into one inconceivably dense point".

It is already mentioned in the holy Qur'an (21 : 30 "have not those who disbelieve known that. The heaven and the earth were both joined, then we tore them apart".

In a billionth of a billionth of a billionth of a second, the universe grew from the size of a tiny part to something billions miles across. This colossal last created everything. All the matter, we see in the universe today. It seems that there was an explosion so huge, that it created an entire universe, the big bang. No one knows what caused it, but we think that the bang created space, time and all the matter in the universe.

The holy Qur'an (21 : 30) "the heaven and the earth were both joined,"
(This Qur'anic verse states two scientifically

accurate facts about the creation of the universe through big bang The common origin of all space and matter. The violent separation that created all the matter in the universe).

The holy Qur'an (21 : 30)"have not those who disbelieve known that The heaven and the earth were both joined, then we tore them apart".

False claims on : "do not the unbelievers see that the heaven and the earth were one piece, Before we clove them asunder, and we made every living thing of water? Will they not believe even then?" al - Qur'an; (21 : 30)

Examine the false claim that the common origin (21 : 30) is similar to the beliefs of the other societies at the time:



1st : the mostly widely held belief at that time was the Greek view of the eternal universe. It does however follow every precisely creation mythologies that we believed in at the time of Muhammad.

2nd : Sumerians beliefs, the heaven had been separated from the earth, (Gilgamesh, Enkider and the nether world) {source; [<http://gatewaystobabylon.com/religions/sumrel1.htm>]}

Regarding the Sumerians, their beliefs on the matter of cosmic creation must often be gleaned (collected) from wholly unrelated texts because, no direct texts exist. In other case, their "gleaned" beliefs were clearly unrelated to the Quran in that. The primal informed mass of heaven / earth. Was given birth to by nammu. It was the union (marriage) of Heaven with earth which produced the 'great gods'.

3rd : Ancient Egyptian beliefs, -And the idea that the heavens and the earth were on single block that was broken into two was common

in ancient Egypt. This is an utter fabrication, according to, the ancient Egyptians believed that. The separation of Geb (the earth god) from nut (the sky goddess).

{[<http://www.crystalink.com/nut.htm>]; and other sources: {<http://www.discoverychannel.co.uk>}; [<http://love-egypt.com/creation.htm>]}

"during the day, the gods Geb & his twin sister / wife, nut" are separated but each evening nut comes down to meet Geb & this causes darkness she gives birth to sun in the east & swallows the sun in the west. The meeting of the Egyptians gods Geb and (his twin sister / wife) nut to cause night and day is not even remotely similar to the verse (21 : 30)

4th : Both the Sumerians and ancient Egyptian civilization. That died out more than 700 years before the Qur'an, and their beliefs were only discovered recently by archaeologist.

As the result, The Qur'an's accurate description of the common origin of all matter in 'the heaven and the earth' is very different from the ridiculous beliefs of ancient societies.

The false notion that the terminology used in this verse (21 : 30): Examine the false notion that the terminology used in the verse does not match with science.

Verse (21 : 30) " the heaven & the earth were both joined then we tore "

False claim on (21 : 30) "the big bang is not about a lump blowing up matter did not exist to be cloven asunder. And there was certainly no splitting of earth from heaven.

Every single part of discuss Islam's statement is incorrect, because as we saw earlier, (Geoffrey Landis, physicist, NASA) everything that there was must have been compressed into one inconceivably dense point".

From this one can hardly think of a more inaccurate description of the big bang than his verse. In fact, it is the term "big bang" that is inaccurate, while the verse is quite precise: (Michio Kaker, author, " parallel worlds") "it was meant to be a derisive term, however, the 'big bang' is really a contradiction because it was not big and there was no bang. It wasn't

big because we think that the universe started from singularity of some sorts; and there was no bang because there was no air to carry the vibrations, so a 'big bang' in some sense is a misnomer, but the name stuck".

In contrast to the term big bang, the Qur'anic description is perfectly accurate to any rational person: (prof. Alfred Kroner (renowned geologist)) "thinking where Muhammad came from he was after all a Bedouin, I think it is almost impossible that he could have known about things like the common origin of the universe. Because scientists have only found out within the last few years with very complicated and advanced technological methods, that this is the case. Somebody who did not know something about nuclear physics 1400 years ago, could not, I think, be in a position to find out from his own mind, for instance, that the earth and the heaven had the same origin".

Clear meaning of this verse: Having demonstrated the clear meaning of this verse, if one were to scrutinize further the Qur'an literal translation (21: 30). The heaven & the earth were both joined then we tore them apart (stitched together) (fabric).

It is fair to critique the Qur'an's terminology against that used by Einstein?

Let see about that, in 1905, Einstein published his theory of special relativity, which explored the link between space and time. He thought of this time as a fabric, weaving together (stitched together) space and time. (21: 30).

The heaven & the earth were both joined then we tore them apart-(stitched together) (fabric) (Geoffrey Landis, physicist, NASA) "in Einstein's view there isn't really a separate thing (there is space and time), but there is just one thing (space - time) that we all live in".

In 1915, Einstein developed this theory of general relativity, which modified special relativity to include gravity and its effect on this fabric of space and time.

Mass is a term used to describe the energy and

matter that objects contain. The larger the mass of an object, the greater its distortion of space - time fabric the stronger the effects of gravity.

(Neil Degrasse Tyson) "gravity's not really a force, it's a fabric. It is a shape of space and time". As a result, the Qur'an's description of the common origin and violent separation of the matter is not only more precise than the term of 'big bang' itself, but the terminology of fabric stunningly coincides with Einstein's description of space and matter.

Furthermore, the verse unusual terminology of 'fabric' is amazingly identical to the ingenious description of space and matter by elite scientist like Einstein.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the Qur'an (21 : 30) correctly states that everything in the universe came from a common origin the Qur'an accurately describes the big bang (better than the term itself) while this scientific discovery could not have been known 1400 years ago.

And as usual those attempting to refute the Qur'an's clear signs have only succeeded in proving their own ignorance about the scientific evidence and about the beliefs of ancient societies.

It is not surprising that proving the miraculous meaning of one Qur'anic verse has led to additional scientific miracles because, Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) said about the Holy Qur'an; "and its wonders never ceased"-- (al - hakim)



Islamic Revert Stories

Radko, Ex-Atheist, Czech

Abdullah Alfazeena

I once knew an atheist who claimed he'd never believed in God's existence. In his view, believers were supposed to be people of weak character who felt the necessity to find a crutch for their inability and laziness, so they attended church. He felt agitated if, when the debating religion, he could not persuade the opponent with his arguments. He despised believers in an almost hysterical way. He had, however, a very good friend who believed in God. They agreed to refrain from discussing religion whenever together.

One day this man, probably in a rare moment of weakness, accepted the invitation of his friend to visit his church. To himself, he laughed at the thought of speaking out in the middle of mass and laughing and pointing his finger at the believers from the pulpit. However, as we know, God works in mysterious ways. He went to church, stood in the back benches, and stared at the people praying.

The mass service started and he gave all of them a sarcastic glance. Then the sermon began, lasting about 15 minutes. Suddenly, in the middle of the sermon, tears welled in his eyes. A strange feeling of joy and happiness washed away his animosity, a feeling that engulfed his entire body. After mass, the two friends left together. They were silent until the moment they were to part ways, when he asked his friend whether they could go to church together again. They agreed to go again the next day.

It's possible some of you might have guessed that I was that stubborn atheist. I had felt nothing but contempt and hatred towards people of faith. But after that sermon in 1989, when the priest discussed how we should not judge others if we don't want to be judged, my life suddenly took a dramatic turn.

I started attending church services regularly and was thirsty for any information on God and Jesus Christ. I took part in meetings with Christian youngsters where we exchanged our spiritual experiences. I felt resurrected. Suddenly I felt the

need to be in the company of believers. I needed to make up for the past 18 years.

I was brought up in an atheist family, who except for having me baptized, did not exercise any attempt to guide my spiritual development. I remember being in sixth grade when a comrade was sent by the Communist Party to explain to us why God does not exist. I remember myself absorbing his every word. In my case, I needed no convincing. I believed everything he said. His arrogance, contempt, and hatred towards believers became mine. But now I had to make up for all those years.

I met with a priest and others who guided me in this new direction. I was full of so many questions, to which they responded. Later I was to realize a big mistake: I accepted everything without contemplation or reflection. I could say that they explained things to me in a 'take-it-as-is' manner, but that would not be fair to them. It was, in fact, my mistake. I didn't reflect upon their words, nor did I think critically. This would cause me a lot of complications later. In retrospect, I believe an important factor that influenced my behavior was age. I was too young to properly comprehend matters so serious and complicated as faith.

I wished to become a good Christian, and God knows I tried very hard. Yet over time, I could not reconcile the contradictions found in the Bible, such as the divine nature of Prophet Jesus and the concept of inherited sin. Priests tried to respond to my questions, but eventually, their patience began to run thin. I was told that such matters should be accepted on faith, and that these questions were a waste of time and would only serve to distance me from God. Till this day, I recall myself quarreling with a spiritual leader, an event that restarted my self-destructive tendencies. Maybe I wasn't right after all. I was young.

How I Became Muslim

My path toward Islam wasn't easy at all. You may think that since I was disappointed with Christianity,

I would have immediately accepted Islam as my faith. This could have been very simple, but all I knew about Islam at the time were things like Muslims refer to God as Allah, they read the Quran instead of the Bible, and they worship somebody called Muhammad. Also, I think I was not yet ready to accept Islam.

So I withdrew from the church community and claimed to be a soloist Christian. I found out, however, that even though I didn't miss the community of believers or church, God was 'settled' so deep in my heart that I couldn't let Him go. I didn't even try. Quite the opposite. I felt happy to have God around and hoped He was on my side.

Later I began to engage in one stupidity after another, living a life of luxury and lust. I did not realize that such a road would lead me away from God and towards hell. A friend of mine says that you need to hit rock bottom in order to feel the ground beneath your feet. This is exactly what happened to me. I fell really deep. I can just imagine how Satan must have been waiting for me with open arms, but God did not give up on me and gave me another chance.

In July 2001, I met a young man from Iraq. His name was Ibrahim. We very quickly struck up a conversation. He told me that he was Muslim, and I responded that I was Christian. I was worried that my being Christian would be a problem, but I was wrong. I was glad to be wrong. It was interesting that I did not want to become Muslim and he did not try to convert me.

Although I considered Muslims an exotic group, I had been interested to learn more about Islam. It was a good opportunity to learn more. I realized that I had in front of me a man who could teach me a lot about Islam, so I mustered the courage to ask him to do just that. That was my first meeting with Islam, indeed my first step. After some time we parted ways, and I did not see him again, but the seed had been sown.

I remember once reading an interview with Mohammad Ali Silhavy (an old Czech Muslim) and being eager to find his address and write him a letter. Then came September 11. Because of the political climate, I thought it might not be an appropriate time to contact Mr. Silhavy. So I found myself at a dead end.

About two months later I found the courage to write a long letter to Mr. Silhavy. After a while he replied and sent a package including Islamic literature and leaflets. He told me that he had informed the Islamic Foundation in Prague about me and asked them to send me the translation of the Qur'an. So this was my beginning. Step by step, I learned that not only is Islam not a militant religion, but to the contrary, it is a religion of peace. My questions were answered.

Because of certain circumstances, it wasn't until three years later that I decided to visit Mr. Silhavy. He showed a lot of patience while explaining to me different issues, and suggested that I visit the mosque of Brno (Czech Republic). When I went to the mosque of Brno, I was afraid that I would be seen as a stranger, an outsider. How surprised I was to find quite the opposite. I met K. and L., who were the first persons to help me. Of course, I met other brothers who welcomed me in the warmest way possible way.

I began to delve into all aspects of Islam, and found how understandable and logical Islam is. I gradually started to learn how to pray, and today I master prayer with no problem, even in Arabic. I gave up a bad habit of mine that was not compatible with Islam. I was a gambler and a very good one indeed. It was a difficult struggle with myself, but with God's help I won that battle.

If I ever doubted my interest in Islam or whether I could live as a Muslim, I know now that my interest is permanent and I consider myself one of them. Maybe it looks very simple, but again with God's help I won this internal struggle. I thought carefully before I definitively decided to embrace Islam. To be honest, throughout 2003 and the beginning of 2004, I was not completely sure if I could manage this. Finally I decided definitively. I am not that young man from the early '90s anymore.

That's why today I feel very happy that I am Muslim. I finally feel free. I still have my imperfections but I am trying to improve upon them. I believe that God will help me. Now, listen to what I want to tell you and consider this my obligation: I believe in my heart and declare by word that there is no other god but ALLAH and Muhammad is ALLAH's Messenger.

SEERAH OF

Muhammad

The Orphan's Childhood

Muhammad (pbuh) returned to live with his mother in Mecca when he was about three years old. Three years later Aminah decided to take her son to visit his uncles in Yathrib. She told her maid, Barakah, to prepare everything they would need for the long journey, and then they joined one of the caravans going there. They stayed in Yathrib a month and Muhammad (pbuh) enjoyed the visit with his cousins.

The climate there was very pleasant and he learned to swim and to fly a kite. On their way back to Mecca, however, Aminah became ill and died. She was buried in the village at al-Abwa not far from Yathrib. Muhammad (pbuh) returned sadly to Mecca with his mother's maid. He was now six years old and had lost both his father and mother. He was then adopted by his grandfather, Abd al-Muttalib, who loved him dearly and kept him by his side at all times. It was the custom of 'Abd al-Muttalib to sit on a blanket near the Ka'bah.

There he was always surrounded by people who had come to speak to him. No one was allowed to sit on the blanket with him, however, except his grandson Muhammad (pbuh), which shows how close they were to each other. Many times 'Abd al-Muttalib was heard to say: 'This boy will be very important one day.' Two years later 'Abd al-Muttalib became ill and Muhammad (pbuh) stayed by him constantly. 'Abd al-Muttalib told his son, Abu Talib, to adopt Muhammad (pbuh) after his death, which he did.

Abu Talib had many children of his own, but Muhammad (pbuh) immediately became part of his family and the favorite child. The time came for Quraysh to prepare a caravan to go to Syria. Abu Talib was going with them and he took Muhammad (pbuh) along. It was Mohammed's first journey to the north. After

days of travel, the caravan arrived at a place near Syria where the Romans used to come to trade with the Arabs. Near this marketplace lived a monk called Bahira'

His cell had been used by generations of monks before him and contained ancient manuscripts. Bahira' saw the caravan in the distance and was amazed to see that over it was a large white cloud. It was the only cloud in a clear blue sky and it appeared to be shading one of the travelers. The monk was even more surprised to see that the cloud seemed to follow the caravan but disappeared when the person it was shading sat down under a tree. Bahira' knew from the scriptures that a prophet was expected to come after Jesus and it had been his wish to see this prophet before he died.

Realizing that what he had just seen was a miracle, he began to think that his wish might, after all, come true. The monk sent an invitation to the Meccans to come and eat with him. The Arabs were surprised because they often passed by and Bahira' had never invited them before. When the group was all together for the meal, the monk said, 'Is this everyone?' 'No', someone said, 'a boy was left watching the camels.' Bahira' insisted that the boy should join them. The boy was Muhammad (pbuh). When he arrived Bahira' said nothing, but watched him all through the meal. He noticed many things about his appearance which fitted the description in the old manuscripts. Later on he took him aside and asked Muhammad (pbuh) many questions.

He soon found out how he felt about the idols in the Ka'bah. When Bahira tried to make him swear by them, as the Arabs used to do, Muhammad (pbuh) said, 'There is nothing in this world that I hate more'. They talked together about Allah and about Mohammed's life and family. What was said made Bahira certain that this was indeed the Prophet who

(THE SEAL OF PROPHETS)

would follow Jesus.

Then the monk went to Abu Talib and asked him how he was related to Muhammad (pbuh). Abu Talib told him that Muhammad (pbuh) was his son. Bahira replied that this could not be so because the boy was destined to grow up an orphan, and he ordered Abu Talib to watch over Muhammad (pbuh) with great care.

There are many stories told about Mohammed's youth. Some tell of how he used to take the family's sheep to graze and was always kind to them. While they grazed he would sit thinking about the mysteries of nature. Unlike those around him he never worshipped the idols and never swore by them. He also wondered why people were always struggling for power and money, and this saddened him and made him feel lonely, but he kept his feelings to himself.

He was a quiet, thoughtful boy, and rarely played with other boys of his age. On one occasion, however, Muhammad (pbuh) went with some of the boys to a wedding in Mecca. When he reached the house he heard the sounds of music and dancing but just as he was about to enter he suddenly felt tired and, sitting down, fell asleep. He didn't wake up until late the next morning and thus missed the celebrations. In this way Allah prevented him from doing anything foolish for He was keeping Muhammad (pbuh) for something much more important.

The Prophets's Marriage;

By the time Muhammad (pbuh) was twenty-five he was famous for his honesty. He was respected by everyone, even the elders of Mecca. The purity of his nature increased with the years. It seemed he had an inner knowledge that other people did not have. He believed in the GOD- CREATOR of the world, ALLH he worshiped Him with all his heart and soul.

Muhammad (pbuh) was the finest of his people, the most kind, truthful and reliable person in Mecca. He was known among Quraysh as 'the trustworthy' (al-Amin) because of the good qualities Allah had given him. He spent many quiet hours in a cave in Mount Hira, not far from Mecca, thinking about Allah. Among Quraysh was a respected and wealthy woman named Khadijah.

She was involved in trade and on hearing of Mohammed's reputation, sent for him and asked him to take her goods and trade with them in Syria. Muhammad (pbuh) agreed and left for Syria with one of Khadijah's caravans. With him went her slave, Maysarah, and they spent a great deal of time talking together. Maysarah soon came to admire Muhammad (pbuh). He thought he was quite different from all the other men of Quraysh. Two unusual events took place during this journey which puzzled Maysarah very much.

The first happened when they stopped to rest near the lonely home of a monk. Muhammad (pbuh) sat under a tree while Maysarah was busy with some work. The monk came up to Maysarah and asked, 'Who is the man resting under the tree?' 'One of Quraysh, the people who guard the Ka'bah', said Maysarah. 'No one but a Prophet is sitting beneath this tree', replied the monk. The second event occurred on the journey back to Mecca. It happened at noon, when the sun is at its hottest. Maysarah was riding behind Muhammad (pbuh) and as the sun grew hotter he saw two angels appear above Muhammad (pbuh) and shield him from the sun's harmful rays. The trading was very successful and Muhammad (pbuh) made more profit for Khadijah than she had ever received before.

(To be continued)

SOURCE: http://www.masjidibrahim.com/Read_The_Life_Of_Prophet_Muhammad.pdf

CURRENT ISSUES

Stigmatization of Rape & Honor Killings

Abdullah Alfazeena

(Resource: <http://www.wisemuslimwomen.org/currentissues/stigmatizationofrape/>)

Even though international and legal agencies have required countries to take appropriate steps to end violence against women such as in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), violence against women and girls is still a significant issue that needs to be addressed with all available resources. According to the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), one in five women worldwide will become a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime. Islam takes a firm stance, which states that rape is haram, or forbidden, and carries a strong and deterring punishment. Sheikh Ahmad Kutty, senior lecturer scholar at the Islamic Institute of Toronto, Ontario, Canada states: "A raped woman is a victim that must be treated with honor and kindness. She is not required to produce four witnesses to prove the crime done against her, nor is she punished for the crime done against her."



In many Muslim societies, women are often held responsible and stigmatized for the violence against them. Rape continues to remain a taboo subject and in some cases women will face discrimination instead of the recognition and vital assistance they need after being abused. Some rape victims are murdered by relatives because the violation of a woman's chastity is viewed as an attack to their family's honor. Almost 50 percent of women in a study of female deaths in Alexandria, Egypt were killed by a relative after being raped. In a number of countries a rapist can go free under the penal code if he proposes to marry the victim. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) estimates that the annual worldwide number of honor killing victims may be as high as 5,000 women. Even female relatives frequently support honor attacks as they too believe women are responsible for embodying a family's honor. As a result, rape victims remain silent and refrain from seeking help because they are afraid of repercussions and lack of justice. At the same time, there are other women who take their own lives, in what is known as "honor suicides," due to mounting family pressure and fear.

According to a 2002 report by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, honor killings take place in Pakistan, Turkey, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Iran, Yemen, Morocco and other Mediterranean and Gulf countries. It also occurs in countries such as Germany, France and the United Kingdom within immigrant communities. Honor killings are not only practiced in Muslim-majority societies. Dowry deaths in India and crime passions in Latin America are similar acts of violence by male family members who target women because of a perceived loss of family honor and which are accepted in some communities.

Digital Technology

The proliferation of digital media and online social networks has enabled Muslim women around the world to develop their own understandings and discourses on Islam and gender relations. Although limited research has been done on the scope and types of Muslim women's activities online, available studies and recent events suggest that the Internet has become a critical site in discussing, challenging, and understanding normative hierarchies of power and authority on both the transnational and community level. Just as the Internet reflects the plurality of Islamic traditions and interpretations, it also highlights a wide spectrum of political, social and religious activity among Muslim women.

Muslim women have utilized technology to create various networks of political reform. For instance, the Arab Spring, a wave of democratic movements that swept across the Middle East beginning in late 2010, exemplified the critical role women played in using digital media to disseminate local news to a global audience. Technology and digital media additionally facilitated women's ability to coordinate, organize, and implement efforts to protect the injured, form public protests, or deliver food or medical supplies. Moreover, digital media has empowered women to speak out and take stands on culturally sensitive, political issues. In Somalia, for example, the Uniting Communities to Mitigate Conflict program has educated women and youth on how to use digital media tools to promote peace and address clan-based conflicts.

In addition to expanding the boundaries of political engagement, digital media has expanded social interaction and communication, particularly among overseas communities. From online dating, social networking, to online activism, Muslim women are building local and global networks. In 2010, Egyptian activists created Harass Map, a site which maps out user-submitted cases of sexual harassment in Egypt, and sites like Muslimah Media Watch monitor and comment on how Muslim women are represented in the media. Online sites that specialize in fatwas, or religious legal opinions, have also provided a means for women to ask private questions about religion or culture in a public setting, which they might not be able to do or want to do in a face-to-face encounter.



The benefits of the Internet and digital media have also come with the dangers of participating online. Although the United Nations has recently declared access to the Internet as a human right, censorship and online surveillance limit women's access. In Afghanistan, female bloggers have created sites to resist patriarchal attitudes, yet they have also received death threats for writing about the causes of prostitution and poverty. In addition to government censorship in some countries, Muslim women face other barriers in participating online. Muslim women generally have less access to computers and technology, and English remains the dominant language of the Internet.¹⁴ Despite these current barriers, however, Internet access and digital media are enabling Muslim women to speak out and become their own agents of change.

5 Things Muslimah must avoid

Fathima Azeera. B

1) PLUCKING EYE BROW:



Shaping, shaving, trimming eyebrow is the practice of (jahiliya) in early time, in order to appear more beautiful and its a forbidden because it involves changing the creation of allah, so anything involves in changing the shape of your eyebrow is consider haram. The prophet (PbUH) considered pucking as distorting the creation of allah.

The Prophet (PbUH) said; 'allah has cursed the woman who does tattoos and the one who has them done, the woman who plucks eyebrow and the one who has it done, and the one who files her teeth for the purpose of beauty altering the creation of Allah.'

2) REVEALING CLOTHES, CLOTHED YET NAKED:

Prophet (PBUH) said; "There are two types of the people of hell whom I have not seen yet, people with whips like the tail of cattle, with which they strike the people, and women who are clothed yet naked walking with an enticing gait. They will not enter paradise nor even smell its fragrance, although its fragrance may be detected from such and such a distance."

ALLAH says: "O children of Adam, we have provided you with garments to cover your bodies, as well as for luxury, but the best garment is the garment of righteousness. These are some of God's signs, that may

take heed," (Quran Al-A'raf 7:26)

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said; "Modesty is part of faith and the faith must lie in the heart."

3) MAKE - UP:

It is haram to wear make-up in front of non-Mehrems men.

(Sura Nur) Allah said: 'And say to the believing woman that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty; that they should not display their beauty and ornaments except what must ordinarily appear - there of that they should draw their veils over their bosoms and not display their beauty except to their husband, their fathers, their husband's father's, their sons, their husband's son or their sisters' sons, or their women or the servants free of physical needs, or small children who have no sense of the shame of sex and that they should not strike their feet in order to draw attention to their hidden ornaments. And O you Believers, turn you all together toward Allah, that you may attain Bless" (Qur'an sura Nur 24:31)



4) TATTOO & PIERCING:

It is not Permissible to pierce the belly

button, or other body parts such as lips, tongue, eyebrows etc. Consider Makruh and disgrace to our body most except the nose and ear, few agree not even the nose just the ear is permissible. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran: "And do not cast yourselves in to destruction by your own hands." (Al-Baqarah: 195)



Tattoo involves changing the creation of Allah, the prophet (PBUH) cursed the one who does tattoos and the one for whom that is done and the one who tattoos (herself or some one else) and the one asks to get tattooed." (Sahih Al-Bukhari no:5589)

The Prophet said:" Whosoever impersonates a nation (other than Islam) will be (resurrected) from them on the day of Judgement."

To have other body parts pierced other than the ears nose is mutilation (muthlah) of the human body which is forbidden in Islam something that cause infection and haram to the body is forbidden in islam. Since body piercing has many risk problems.

5) ARTIFICIAL HAIR

" a woman asked the prophet (PbUH): " I have a daughter, who has just married. she suffered from measles and resultantly lost her hairs; can she wear a wig?" The Prophet (pBUH) replied in negavite: "allah curses the- one, who makes wigs, and the one who wears them". (Sahih Muslim)

Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said: "Allah has cursed the woman who joins (her or some one else's) hair (with the hair of another man or woman) and the woman who ask for her hair to be joined (with the hair of another person).

The messenger of Allah (PBUH) did not even permit it for a woman whose natural hair had fallen off and forbid it.



IN'SHA'ALLAH dear Muslimah sister's lets all avoid these 5 major things. These are haram, that would bring the curse of our beloved Prophet and our Creator ALLAH.

If, any of you have been practising this, IN'SHA'ALLAH stop this immediately. ALLAH the most-merciful, the oft-forgiving would IN'SHA'ALLAH forgive you and your sins.

AMEEN YA ALLAH

SALAH

The Salah is a pillar of Islam. It is the heart of religion and faith. A Muslim is known by the way he offers Salah. The key to Paradise is Salah. And indeed the five daily prayers remove sins, just as water removes dirt. Of all man's actions, the first to be accounted on the Day of Resurrection will be the Salah. If it is found to be complete, he will have succeeded and gained, and if it is found wanting, then he will have failed and lost. Salah is obligatory on every muslim.

In the words of Qur'an.....

"And perform the prayers to remember Me" (20:14)

"Surely Salah is a timed prescription for the believers" (4: 103)



"THE STORY OF PROPHET NUH(A.S)"

Nuh (A.S.) was a Prophet. He lived many years after Adam. He was noble and kind-hearted. Allah chose him to be His prophet. He commanded him to warn people against evil and call them to repent.

Nuh (A.S) rose and told his people, "I have been sent to you with a clear warning. I am to you a Prophet, worthy of all trust." But Nuh's mission was to a wicked world. His people were plunged deep in sins. They rejected him.

Nuh (A.S.) tried earnestly. He spoke in public places. He spoke to individuals. He appealed to them privately. He tried his best to persuade his people to have faith in Allah alone. But all this was in vain. Only a few followed Nuh (A.S).

Allah commanded Nuh (A.S) to build an ark (ship). Indeed disbelievers are about to be drowned". So Nuh(A.S) set himself building an ark. The people passed by him asked "When did you turn a carpenter?" Thus people would go down to Nuh's place and laugh at him. The idea of flood seemed very remote to them. Nuh bore patiently all that they said.

Allah made Nuh built an ark, which was very large. When all was finished, he sent into it his family, all the believers and after them the birds and the beast. That evening the rain began to fall gently, it flooded all the heights. People ran for refuge. There was no one to protect them that day except Allah. But the ship Nuh(A.S) had built floated quietly for days on the water which contained the believers.

At last the noise and the rain ceased, Allah stilled the storm. The matter was ended and the ark came to rest on Mount Judi. Nuh(A.S) disembarked in the peace given from Allah. Allah blessed Nuh(A.S). He blessed all the people in the ark.

SPECIAL DUA'S

Mushrifa Zamaan

Duas for Good in the Hereafter:

002:201 And of them there are some who say: "Our Lord! Give us in this world that which is good and in the Hereafter that which is good, and save us from the torment of the Fire!"

002:202 For them there will be allotted a share for what they have earned. And Allah is Swift at reckoning.

066:008 O you who believe! Turn to Allah with sincere repentance! It may be that your Lord will remit from you your sins, and admit you into Gardens under which rivers flow (Paradise) the Day that Allah will not disgrace the Prophet (Muhammad pbuh) and those who believe with him, their Light will run forward before them and with (their Records Books of deeds) in their right hands they will say: "Our Lord! Keep perfect our Light for us and grant us forgiveness. Verily, You are Able to do all things."

066:011 And Allah has set forth an example for those who believe, the wife of Fir'aun (Pharaoh), when she said: "My Lord! Build for me a home with You in Paradise, and save me from Fir'aun (Pharaoh) and his work, and save me from the people who are evil (polytheists, wrong-doers and disbelievers in Allah).

003:190 Verily! In the creation of the heavens and the earth, and in the alternation of night and day, there are indeed signs for men of understanding.

003:191 Those who remember Allah (always, and in prayers) standing, sitting, and lying down on

their sides, and think deeply about the creation of the heavens and the earth, (saying): "Our Lord! You have not created (all) this without purpose, glory to You! (Exalted be You above all).

Give us salvation from the torment of the Fire."

003:192 "Our Lord! Verily, whom You admit to the Fire, indeed, You have disgraced him, and never will the evil (polytheists and wrongdoers) find any helpers."

003:193 "Our Lord! Verily, we have heard the call of one (Muhammad SAW) calling to Faith: 'Believe in your Lord,' and we have believed. Our Lord! Forgive us our sins and remit from us our evil deeds, and make us die in the state of righteousness along with Al-Abrar (those who are obedient to Allah and follow strictly His Orders).

003:194 "Our Lord! Grant us what You promised unto us through Your Messengers and disgrace us not on the Day of Resurrection, for You never break (Your) Promise."

003:195 So their Lord accepted of them (their supplication and answered them), "Never will I allow to be lost the work of any of you, be male or female. You are (members) one of another, so those who emigrated and were driven out from their homes, and suffered harm in My Cause, and who fought, and were killed (in My Cause), verily, I will remit from them their evil deeds and admit them into Gardens under which rivers flow (in Paradise); a reward from Allah, and with Allah is the best of rewards."



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Quranic Cure

BLACK MAGIC

Abdullah Alfazeena

Every disease or disorder has a cure. ALLAH (Subhana wa'thala) has never given any disease without its cure. But, only some of his slaves know them and have benefitted from them.

Today, we are going to see about "BLACK MAGIC/ SIHIR".

What is BLACK MAGIC?

Magic is an old human practice. It is sometimes defined as deception by showing something to an audience, which is contrary to reality. In Islam this is part of magic, which is, however, defined as seeking the help of demons to perform something harmful against somebody.

In the light of the above definition, Islam considers magic to be an act of blasphemy. Thus, the Holy Quran say:

"Suleiman (Solomon) did not disbelieve, but the devils disbelieved teaching men magic" [QURAN 2:102]

Thus Islam condemns magic- even what is called the horoscope or luck or reading one's palm to foretell the future is also prohibited in Islam. This is based on the belief that no one knows the future or the unseen except God almighty. That is why the Quran asserts that even Muhammad does not know the unseen. Concerning this, it says:

"If I had the knowledge of the unseen, I should have secured abundance for myself, and no evil would have touched me". [QURAN 7:188]

Black Magic in Quran :

Let us now review some of the verses of the Holy Quran that refer to magic: In Chapter two verse 101-102, the Quran says:

"And when there came to them a Messenger from Allah confirming what was with

them, a party of those who were given the scripture threw away the book of Allah behind their backs as if they did not know. And they followed what the devils gave out falsely of magic of the reign of Solomon; for Solomon did not disbelieve but the devils disbelieved, teaching men magic and such things that came down at Babylon to the two angels Harut and Marut, but neither of these two (angles) taught anyone (such things) until they had said: we are only for trial, so don't disbelieve. And from them (magicians) people learn that through which they would cause separation between a person and his spouse, but they could not thus harm anyone except by Allah's leave; and they learn that which harms them rather than profits them. And indeed they knew that its practitioner would have no share in the Hereafter. And how bad indeed was that for which they sold their own selves if they but knew". [QURAN 2:101-2]

TREATMENT:

'Sayyida A'isha (Allah be pleased with her) narrates: "Whenever the Messenger of Allah (Allah bless him & give him peace) would become ill, he would recite the Mu'awwizat (Surah al-Falaq & Surah an-Nas) and blow over himself. When his illness was aggravated, I used to recite these two Surahs (and blow my breath) over him and make him rub his body with his own hand, for its blessings."

[Sahih al-Bukhari No. 4728]

Also, the consuming of Ajwa dates has been prescribed by the Messenger of Allah (Allah bless him & give him peace) as a remedy for black magic. Amir ibn Sa'd narrates from his father that the Messenger of Allah (Allah bless him & give him peace) said: "He who eats seven Ajwa dates every morning, will not be affected by poison or magic on the day he eats them." [Sahih al-Bukhari No. 5130]

GLOSSARY

PAGE 1

ALLAH - The arabic word for GOD in islam. Who is the creator of the universe.

QUR'AN - The Noble books sent by ALLAH thourgh the last prophet, to guide the people.

AS-SALAT/ SALAH - The prayer performed by muslims.

ZAKAATH - Charity

HAJJ - The obligatory pilgrimage done by vist the Mecca during the arabic month Dhual-hajj.

IQAAMATH - Second call to Islamic prayer

SAUM - Fasting

Prophet Muhammad - The last prophet sent by ALLAH in Islam.

PAGE 2

ISLAM- Submission to the will of god and obedience to his law..

JAMAATH- Assembly.

MASJID- Place of Muslim worship/ place of prostration

PAGE 3

SUBHAANA WA TA'ALA.- Glorified and exalted

be He.

PAGE 5

(S.A.W) - Salallahu Wa Alaihiwassalam means Peace Be Upon Him. Which is used after mentioning Prophet Muhammad.

PAGE 8

SEERAH- history

PAGE 12

MUSLIMAH - The muslim women

JAHILIYA - Ignorant

NON MEHREMS - one who can marry a girl.

PAGE 13

MAKRUH- Abominable.

IN SHAA ALLAH- If Allah wills

HARAAM - Prohibited ACT

PAGE 15

DUA - Invocation

PAGE 16

AJWA - One of the high quality Date variety.

JAZAAKALLAH KHAIR- May Allah reward u with goodness.



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وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ لِأَمَانَاتِهِمْ وَعَهْدِهِمْ رَاعُونَ

[Successful are the believers]...who are faithful to their trusts and to their promises. Surahal-Mu'minun 23:8



.....JAZAKALLAH
KHAIRUN.....