

PARADISE

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APRIL 2001

A WAKE-UP CALL...

"If Allah helps you none can overcome you, and if He forsakes you, who is there, after Him, that can help you. And in Allah (alone) let believers put their trust." (3:160)

Have **we** ever questioned ourselves whether we have false attachments that contradict with what we always claim: "O Allah we depend on you and put our trust in you"?

Have **we** ever checked our heart if it really has the peace that the *Trust in Allah* brings to it?

Have **we** ever examined ourselves against hypocrisy and all forms of dishonesty?

Allah (SWT) says:

"And whosoever fears Allah and keeps his duty to Him. He will make a way for him to get out (from) every (difficulty), and He will provide him from (sources) he could never imagine." (65:2-3)

It is only when we depend upon Allah, asking Him Alone for assistance, and love Him and worship Him Alone to gain His pleasure and His help, it is only then we will have no fear nor worry in our lives and our souls and minds will have peace and security.

The Prophet (PBUH) said:

"Allah says: 'Son of Adam: Fill your time with My worship and I will fill your heart with richness, and end off your poverty. But if you do not, I would make your hands fully busy (i.e. in worldly affairs) and I would not end off your poverty.'"

Our purpose of existence on earth is more meaningful than being slaves to worldly gains. There can be no meaningful life better than that prescribed by our Creator Allah (SWT):

"O mankind! It is you who stand in need of Allah, but Allah is Rich (Free of all wants and needs), Worthy of All Praise." (35:15)

Advice to Our 2001 Graduates

By: Syed Iqbal Ahmad

All praise is to Allah/Lord who guides whom He wills through His Mercy and sends astray whom He wills for His Justice. We praise only Him and glorify only Him and to Him is our return.

I bear witness that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah/Lord, who is one and has no partners. And I bear witness that Mohammed (PBH) is His bondsman and His messenger.

First of all, on behalf of the Huntsville Islamic Center/Community, congratulations and best of Iman to our 2001 graduates and their parents. We celebrate your excellent achievements that reflect the progress of our Muslim community. You are all adults; and instead of advising I will share some reminders. We elder folks have done our best to direct you toward your future. It is now your responsibility to excel in this world with the best of your abilities. We are confident that you will be the best Muslims and a model for others to follow.

Every Muslim has responsibilities to fulfill. These are specified in the Quran-ul-Hakim and could be categorized in three major topics: (1) Responsibility towards Allah, (2) Responsibility towards your parents and family, (3) Responsibility towards yourself and society. These reminders are just from Quran-ul-Hakim. The ayahs that reflects the central theme for the graduates of the year 2001 are as follows:

1. Responsibility towards Allah:

- ◆ It is not righteous that you turn your faces toward east or west. But it is righteous to believe in Allah, and last day; and the Angels, and the Quran-ul-Hakim, and the messengers; And to spend your substance out of love for Him, for your kin, for orphans, for the needy, for the wayfarer, for those who ask, and for the ransom of slaves, to be steadfast in salat, and practice zakat, to fulfill contracts which you have made; and to be firm and patient, in pain and adversity and throughout all periods of panic. Such are the people of truth, and Allah/God/Lord fearing (2:177)
- ◆ Allah is one, there is no God but He, most gracious, most merciful (2:163). There is no God but He, the living, the self-sustaining, eternal (2:255). Allah has promised the believers who do good deeds that they shall be made successors in the earth (24:58). And pray to Allah, "Our Lord! Grant to us what you have promised through your messenger (3:194). And Allah believers should put their trust in Him (3:122, 160; 5:21; 9:51; 14:11; 58:10; 64:13). Surely Allah loves those who put their trust in him (3:159)

2. Responsibility towards your parents and family:

- ◆ Do good to your parents, kin, orphans, and the needy (2:83). Do good to others, Allah loves those who do good (2:195). Your Lord has commended that you worship none but Him and that you be kind to parents. If either or both of them reach old age with thee, say not to them a word of contempt, nor repel them but address them in terms of honor (17:23). And out of Kindness lower to them the wing of humanity and say: "My Lord bestow on them your mercy even as they cherished me in childhood" (17:24).

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Funny...but...Sad



- Funny how a **\$100** "looks" so big when taken to **mosque**... But so small when taken to the mall.
- Funny how long it takes to serve **ALLAH** for an hour... But how quickly a team plays 60 minutes of **basketball**.
- Funny how long a couple of hours spent at the **mosque** seem... But how short they are when watching a **movie**.
- Funny how people can't think of anything to say when they **pray**... But don't have difficulty thinking of things to talk about to a **friend**.
- Funny how people get **thrilled** when a cricket game goes into one day series... But complain when a "**khutba**" is longer than the regular time.
- Funny how hard it is to read a chapter in **Qur'an**... But how easy it is to read **100** pages of a best selling novel OR a magazine.
- Funny how people want to get a front seat at any **game or concert**... But scramble to sit in the back of a **mosque**.
- Funny how people need 2 or 3 weeks advance notice to fit a **Muslim event** into their schedule... But can adjust their schedule for **other events** at the last moment.
- Funny how people believe what the **newspapers** say... But question what the **Qur'an** says !!

And finally it is funny how everyone wants to go to **heaven** provided they do not have to **believe, think, say or do anything**.

Community News

Congratulations to Brothers Fuad and Suhail for finishing their Master's Degrees

The Boys Youth Group are conducting ONE-DOLLAR per week fund-raising to benefit the Muslims in *Ethiopia* who are suffering from hunger and drought.
Please be generous and support this effort

We need your help....

Please provide us with your comments, articles, or community news. Sent your contributions to: majdi_saleh@hotmail.com

**DON'T FORGET TO
SEND YOUR
CONTRIBUTIONS
TO SUPPORT THE
HIC EXPANSION
PROJECT**

ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS

Friday Halaqah at 7:30-9:00 p.m
Two separate study circles for brothers and sisters.
Sunday Halaqah at 9:45-1:00
Qur'anic Tafseer followed by and a general topic.
Short Reminder:
Every Monday and Wednesday after Isha Prayer.

Prayer Times at the Masjid

Fajr:	5:30 a.m.
Duhur:	1:00 p.m.
Asr:	4:45 p.m.
Maghrib:	Sunset
Isha:	8:45 p.m.
Jumu'a (Friday):	12:30 p.m.



HIC Picnic
Saturday, May 12th, 2001
Joe Wheeler State Park
starting at 11:00 a.m.

Register now and come and join the fun. Tickets are available at HIC.
\$5 single, \$15 couple, \$20 family.

For tickets and further information please contact the HIC Boys Youth Group.

Islamic Academy of Huntsville (IAH)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2001-2002

ENROLLMENT SHALL BEGIN SOON

YOUR CHILDREN DESERVE TO BE BETTER MUSLIMS.

HELP IAH TO ESTABLISH ISLAM ON A FIRM FOOTING ---- ENROLL YOUR CHILD !!

PLEASE CONTACT : 722-9838

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