

PARADISE

A Monthly Publication of Huntsville Islamic Center

August 2001

EDITORIAL

Where is the Islamic Ummah? Where is the Ummah of Qur'an? Where are the followers of Muhammad (PBUH)?

O' Muslims allover the Globe: Wake up from your stagnant dead status to aid and support your brothers and sisters in Islam. It is not possible that the Islamic Ummah keep silent on what is happening in Palestine except if they forgot or ignored their religion.

We set forth our appeal to Allah. We complain for the blood that has been shed, the killing of our Muslim children, women, and men and all the other rituals that were violated by the enemies of Islam. We complain to Allah: Our children who became orphans, our women who became widows, the helpless mothers who observed the slaughter of their husbands and children, the homes destroyed and the trees and lands demolished and confiscated.

With these complaints to Allah, let's ask ourselves: What will be our answer before Allah in the Day of Judgment when we are asked:

- How did you support your suffering brothers and sisters?
- Did you try to help, support, feed or wipe the tears on the faces of these miserable Muslims?
- How did you sleep at night after you learned that there are Muslims being killed and tortured including babies and elders?
- Did you behave correctly with all the bounties Granted to you by Allah?
- Did you think of volunteering some of these bounties to relieve other Muslims so that Allah will drive Muslims in the future to ease any hardship you might face?

By God, all of us will be asked to reply to these inquires when there will be no way to escape or to return back to correct what we overlooked or ignored!

"Knowledge before speech and action"

Allah (*subhanahu wa tala*) said: "**Allah (Himself) is witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Him, and the Angels and the men of learning (are also witnesses to this). Maintaining His creation in justice, there is no god save Him, the Almighty, the Wise**" [3:18]

Notice that Allah (*subhanahu wa tala*) in these Ayat started the witnessing to the fact that "there is no deity worthy of worship but Himself" with Himself, then He follows it saying that this is also the witness of His Angels and then He follows it by the people who possess knowledge. This verse definitely emphasizes the position of the people who are endowed with knowledge above those who are without it.

Allah (*subhanahu wa tala*) said: "**Allah raises the level of those who believe and those who are endowed with knowledge**" [58:11]

He also said "...**Are those who know equal with those who do not know? But only men of understanding will pay heed.**" [39:9]

And "...**Indeed those who fear Allah from his servants they are the knowledgeable, Indeed Allah is the Mighty, the Most Forgiving.**" [35:28]

He also said: "**And these similitude we coin for mankind, but none will grasp their meaning except those of knowledge**"

In the above cases we clearly see the very high rank that Allah (*subhanahu wa tala*) Himself endowed upon those who possess knowledge.

He said: "**Ask the people of Remembrance if you do not know**"

This is because understanding Allah's Rulings is based upon the investigation and deductions of the learned.

Abu Dardaa said that the Messenger of Allah (*salla Allah-u alaihi wa sallam*) said: "**Those people endowed with knowledge are the inheritors of the prophets**" [Hadeeth Hassan, Abu Dawood, ibn Majah, At-Tirmithi, ibn Habaan].

He also said: "**Whosoever Allah wishes good for, He bestows upon him understanding of the Deen**" [Bukhaari and Muslim].

He bestows upon him an understanding of the Deen means that He will allow him to be taught the Qur'an and the Sunnah. It is common knowledge that there is no higher position than that achieved by the prophets and that there is no greater honor than that of inheriting from that noble position [i.e. inheriting from the prophets (*alaihim-u as-salam*)].

ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS

Friday Halaqah: 7:30-9:15 p.m

Two separate study circles for brothers and sisters.

Sunday Halaqah: 9:45-1:00 (during School)

Qur'anic Tafseer followed by a general topic.

Short Reminder:

Every Monday and Wednesday after *Isha* Prayer.

Prayer Times at the Masjid

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| Fajr: | 5:15 a.m. |
| Duhur: | 1:00 p.m. |
| Asr: | 4:45 p.m. |
| Maghrib: | Sunset |
| Isha: | 9:00 p.m. |
| Jumu'a (Friday): | 12:30 p.m. |



...In Remembrance of August 21, 1969...

Thirty- two years have passed since on August 21, 1969 Messianic Jews tried to and partially succeeded in burning-down Islam's third holiest sanctuary, Masjid al-Aqsa.

The 1969 attack on Al Aqsa is just one in a long list of threats to the sacred Mosque, and attacks on Muslim rights in Jerusalem.

The following is a partial list of the acts of aggression and desecration against the Al-Aqsa Mosque:

- **June 7, 1967:** The occupation authorities confiscated the keys of the western gate known as Bab-el-Maghrabia.
- **June 9, 1967:** The congregational Friday Prayer was not held which was the first time the Juma'a prayer didn't take place since the liberation of Jerusalem from the hands of the Crusaders in 1187.
- **August 21, 1969:** An Australian-born Zionist terrorist, Denis Michael Rohan, entered the mosque and set the magnificent Nurrudin Zinki Mihrab on fire. The fire gutted the unique Mihrab
- **November 16, 1969:** The Israeli occupation authorities seized the Fakhriyya corner on the south-western side of the Haram-al-Sharif.
- **August 14, 1970:** The Gershon Salmon group, an ultra-fanatic group dedicated to the so-called rebuilding of the temple of Solomon on the site of Al-Masjidul Aqsa after it is demolished, forcibly entered the premises of the Haram, but were repulsed by Muslims. The confrontation resulted in tens of worshippers being injured by Israeli troop gunfire.
- **April 19, 1980:** A group of Jewish rabbis and sages held a semi-secret conference devoted to exploring ways and means "to liberate the Temple Mount from Muslim hands."
- **August 28, 1980:** The Israeli occupation authorities dug a tunnel right underneath the mosque.
- **March 30, 1982:** Numerous letters were sent to Muslim Waqf authorities warning them to abandon the temple mount. The letters were written in Hebrew, English, French, Spanish and Polish.
- **May 20, 1982:** Several Zionist organizations sent death threats to Waqf officials.
- **April 11, 1982:** An Israeli soldier named Allen Goodman stormed the interior of the mosque spraying worshippers with bullets from his M-16 assault rifle, killing and wounding over 60 Palestinians.
- **March 26, 1983:** The main entrance to the Jerusalem's Waqf department collapsed due to Israeli excavation underneath.
- **August 21, 1985:** The Israeli police permitted Jewish extremists to hold prayers within the confines of the Haram promises.
- **August 4, 1986:** A group of Rabbis issued a final ruling allowing Jews to pray at the Haram-al-Sharif, and demanded the establishment of a synagogue in the area.
- **May 12, 1988:** Israeli soldiers opened fire on a peaceful Muslim march at the Haram, killing, and wounding about a hundred Palestinians.
- **August 8, 1990:** The Israeli authorities committed a grisly massacre at the Al-Aqsa Mosque, **killing 22** worshippers and injuring over 200.
- **July 25, 1995:** The Israeli high court of justice issued a ruling, allowing Jews to pray at the "Temple Mount". The decision sparked off widespread protests among Muslims.
- **July 29, 2001:** Zionist occupation authorities allowed the extremist group, the Temple Mount Faithful, to place a 4-½ ton boulder at the foot of the Noble Sanctuary.

Coming Soon to HIC's backyard....

Construction for Phase I of the HUNTSVILLE ISLAMIC CENTER's Education and Youth Center (HIC's expansion project) will start very soon (insha' Allah).

Please Continue Your Generous Support

Muslimah

HIC Sisters' Page
 Editor: Sr. Zakiyyah Shakoor



Good Treatment of Children

Children have a great responsibility and duty towards their parents, according to Islam. However, the duties and responsibilities of parents towards their children are greater, more significant and more important. Allah (swt) says in the Qur'an: "O you who believe! Ward off from yourselves and your families a fire (hell) whose fuel is men and stones, over which are (appointed) angels stern (and) severe, who disobey not (from executing) the commandments they receive from Allah, but do that which they are commanded." (At-Tahrim 66:7). In this verse Allah (swt) calls the believers to protect themselves, their wives and children from the punishment of Allah (swt) by guiding them to the straight path of Islam. Many parents know very little about raising children. All they know is that they must provide them with food, drink, clothing, etc. Moreover, some parents buy lots of toys and expensive accessories believing that this is equally as important for their development. When the child develops bad and stubborn behavior, parents feel confused and upset. Perhaps the parent will then resort to shouting or hitting her child, forgetting that they have brought him up in such a way that has caused this behavior. In many cases, parents often over-account for the material needs of their children, but forget to nurture their souls, which is so important for building good character. Similarly, they do not show children correct manners by setting a good example, nor do they monitor the development of their children's character. Yet they somehow expect them to grow up to be polite and dutiful children.

Muslim parents must be aware that looking after their children is a serious responsibility, about which they will be questioned on Yawmul-Qiyaamah (Judgement Day). Their children are an amaanah (trust) in their hands; they must fear Allah (swt) and not take their role as parents lightly. In a hadeeth, narrated by Imaam Ahmad, the Prophet (s) said, "A father could not give his son a better gift than good manners." How often do parents say to their children, "Don't do that because so-and-so might see you!" or "Make sure you behave yourself in front of such-and-such!" This gives the child the impression that it is important to be well behaved in front of certain people or on certain occasions, so that people will be pleased with them. However, as Muslims, we should fear Allah at all times and act accordingly. Parents need to teach children that their intentions should be sincerely for Allah, seeking only His pleasure. Unless children have been guided from an early age, it will be difficult for them in the future to make their intentions for Allah (swt). It will be very hard for them to concentrate on being a responsible Muslim in their adult life, since they did not have the correct example as a child. A person who seeks the pleasure of Allah (swt) will give everybody their rights, especially his parents.

Parents tend to place considerable pressure on children to succeed at school, in their careers, and to obtain a high position in the community. It is important for the parents to remind their children if they hold a position of responsibility to fear Allah (swt) always, not to become arrogant but to remain humble and help people. Regardless of occupation or status, they must know that they differ from their fellow Muslims only in terms of piety. Allah (swt) says in the Qur'an: "Verily the most honorable of you with Allah is that (believer) who has at-Taqwa." (al-Hujurat 49:13). A person with taqwa (fear, love, hope in Allah) is one who fears Allah (swt) and abstains from all kinds of sins and evil deeds that He has forbidden; in addition, he loves Allah (swt) and performs all kinds of good deeds. The person who has grown up to be humble and have good manners will be humble with his parents first, and the one who has Taqwa in his heart and fears Allah (swt) will look after his parents without being reminded all the time. Parents should be aware of the way they treat their children. This relationship should be built on respect, trust and good manners. The parents should be a good example for their children, both inside and outside the house. If all these guidelines are heeded, we will have dutiful children who know the best way to treat their parents, something, which Islam emphasizes in so many ayaat (verses) of the Qur'an, and ahadeeth (practice) of the Prophet (s). (Umm Publications)

HIC Islamic Weekend School

- * *School is scheduled to start on Sunday 9/9/2001 at 9:30 a.m.*
- * *Registration is required prior to admitting children to the school.*
- * *We have programs for all school ages.*

Visit...

Huntsville Islamic Center

On the web

www.huntsvilleislamiccenter.org

For your participation in PARADISE with articles and ideas, please contact us at paradise@huntsvilleislamiccenter.org

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