

PARADISE

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HAJJ, WHAT A GREAT OCCASION!!

Once again we live the days of Hajj. These sacred and blessed days bring to all Muslims specially those who have been blessed to perform the Hajj, great lessons and experience.

The gathering of all of these Muslims from all over the world at the first house of worship on earth carries with it the uniqueness and greatness of this Muslim Ummah that is originated from the greatness of its religion, *Al-Islam*.

Hajj is a great and unique occasion that provides a unmatched picture of this Ummah, its unity, and its history.

- It is a show of the Ummah:

"Verily, this Ummah of yours is a single Ummah, and I am your Lord, therefore serve Me (and no other)."

One Ummah, One nation, and One God. This belief and worship of the One God (Allah) unifies people from all races, who speaks many different languages and who have many different cultural and social backgrounds and yet Islam addresses them all as (*One People*).

This one Ummah, Allah (SWT) has chosen Islam for it to be its religion and its way of life and warned it against following ways, styles, and systems other than Allah's guidance because that will cost this Ummah its unique and unified structure.

"Verily, this is My Way leading straight: follow it; follow not (other) paths: they will scatter you about from His (great) Path; thus He does command you, that you may be righteous."

- It is a show of Unity and Equality:

During Hajj, the pilgrims experience and live this unity first hand where all borders and barriers are broken and all differences have been forgotten. No quarrels and arguments and no bad speech, they all worship in peace the God of peace in the house of peace.

"For Hajj are the months well-known. If any one undertakes that duty therein, let there be no obscenity, nor wickedness, nor wrangling in the Hajj and whatever good you do, (be sure) Allah knows it"

They are all dressed in simplest of clothing and they are commanded to give up adornment by not having a haircut or wearing perfumes- Because Islam seeks equality among people and seeks to wipe out all traces that reveal people's riches or fame. And they all share a unity of feeling and appeal to Allah in total devotional submission entertaining His Mercy. Allah (SWT) warns the believers not to dispute amongst themselves and to stay united and keep the harmony between all members of this one Ummah because dispute is a reason for failure.

"..and fall into no disputes, lest ye lose heart and your power depart; and be patient and persevering: for Allah is with those who patiently persevere"

- It is a show of History:

Hajj rituals connects our present to the time of Prophet *Muhammad* (peace be upon him) and his companions (may Allah be pleased with them). And it also links us to the time of Prophet *Ibrahim* and his son *Ismail* (peace be upon them) who after all, the Hajj and the sacrifice are to commemorate them.

"And remember Abraham and Isma'il raised the foundations of the House (with this prayer): "Our Lord! Accept (this service) from us: for Thou art the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing. "Our Lord! Make of us Muslims bowing to Thy (Will); and of our progeny a people Muslim, bowing to Thy (Will); and show us our places for the celebration of (due) rites; and turn unto us (in Mercy); for Thou art the Oft-Returning, Most Merciful. "Our Lord! Send amongst them a Messenger of their own, who shall rehearse Thy Signs to them and instruct them in Scripture and Wisdom, and sanctify them: for Thou art the Exalted in Might, the Wise."

"...it is the cult of your father Abraham. It is He Who has named you Muslims, both before and in this (Revelation);..."

Hajj also reminds us and arouses memories of the sacrifice and perseverance of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his companions. It reminds us with the birthplace of the Prophet and his call to Allah standing on the "Safa". It brings to us the memories of his and his companions' struggle against the unbelievers.

Abu Omar

Dawah Corner: Steadfastness: Standing Firm in Islam

Steadfastness in the religion of Allah is a basic requirement for every sincere Muslim who wants to follow the Straight Path with determination and understanding. It is part of Allah's mercy towards us that He has shown to us, in His Book and through the words and life of His Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) many ways of being steadfast in Islam. I will discuss some of them below:

Turning towards the Qur'an

The Qur'an is the foremost aid to standing firm in Islam. It is the strong rope and clear light of Allah. Whoever adheres to it, Allah will protect him; whoever follows it, Allah will save him; and whoever calls to its way will be guided to the Straight Path.

Allah has stated that the reason why this Book was revealed in stages was to help His Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to stand firm in his faith. In the context of refuting the doubts of the *kuffaar*, He says: *"And those who disbelieve say, 'Why is not the Qur'an revealed to him all at once?' Thus (it is sent down in parts), that We may strengthen your heart thereby. And We have revealed it to you gradually, in stages. And no example to similitude do they bring (to oppose or to find fault in you or in this Qur'an), but We reveal to you the truth (against that similitude or example), and the better explanation thereof."* [25:32-33]

Adhering to the laws of Allah and doing righteous deeds

Allah says: *"Allah will keep firm those who believe, with the word that stands firm in this world and in the Hereafter. And Allah will cause to go astray those who are zaalimoon (polytheists and wrong-doers, etc.), and Allah does what He wills."* [14:27].

Qutaadah said: "As for the life of this world, Allah will help them to be steadfast in doing good and righteous deeds, and in the Hereafter (He will help them) to remain steadfast in the grave." (Ibn Katheer, 3/421).

Studying the stories of the Prophets and following their example

The evidence for this is the verse: *"And all that We relate to you (O Muhammad) of the news of the Messengers is in order that We may make strong and firm your heart thereby. And in this has come to you the truth, as well as an admonition and a reminder for the believers."* [11:120].

These verses were not revealed at the time of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) for the purpose of mere entertainment and amusement. They were revealed for an important purpose, which was to strengthen the heart of the Prophet (peace be upon him) and likewise the hearts of the believers.

From the book; "Wasaa'il al-Thabaat by Sheikh Muhammed Salih Al-Munajjid"

HIC Voting Membership Registration

Dear Brothers and Sisters;

Asalamu Alaikum!

HIC Bylaws and Constitution requires that anyone desirous of becoming an HIC voting member, do so by registering as such and paying the yearly dues. Hence, it is incumbent that existing members renew their membership and new members sign up for year 2001. If you are interested, **please fill out the information completely on the form (see the inside page) and mail it in the enclosed envelope with your check.** This will help tremendously in keeping HIC records current. Please ensure that all information is correct and legible.

The dues are \$40.00 for family membership and \$20.00 for single membership. All new and renewal membership dues are expected as soon as possible. Kindly, take time out to send in the forms along with the dues at your earliest convenience. Should you have any question regarding the membership. Please send me e-mail at jhaider@knolodgy.net.

Jazakallah!

Javed Haider

General Secretary

Huntsville Islamic Center



ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS

- * **Friday Halaqah at 7:00-8:30 p.m.:**
Two separate study circles for brothers and sisters.
- * **Sunday Halaqa at 10:00 a.m.:**
Qur'anic Tafseer and a general topic are discussed by the brothers.
- * **Qur'an Recitation Circle:**
Every night after Isha Prayer.
- * **Short Reminder:**
Every Monday and Wednesday after Isha Prayer.

Prayer Times at the Masjid

Fajr:	5:45 a.m.
Duhur:	12:15 p.m.
Asr:	3:30 p.m.
Maghrib:	Sunset
Isha:	7:30 p.m.
Jumu'a (Friday):	12:30 p.m.





Muslimah...

HIC Sisters' Page
 Editor: Sr. Zakiyyah Shakoor

"How a Pearl Protects Itself"

(Exerpts take from a Khutbah for Muslim Women by Mohammad Alsharrif. This is an excellent article. It can be read in its entirety at http://www.jamiat.org.za/isinfo/how_a_pearl_protects_itself.html)

Kindly pass this along to your Wives, Sisters, Mothers, Daughters, and all other Muslim women.

Dear Sister. Everyone is looking for happiness and fun, and I am sure you are not excluded. Where is that happiness and fun though? And where and when do you want that happiness? Do you want happiness? Do you want to have 'fun' in this life at the expense of the hereafter? Or is it in the hereafter, when you meet Allah that you want to be happy? Everywhere you go you shall find a swarm of people and media and culture swearing to you that happiness is the happiness of the Dunya. Is it really happiness though? On the day of Repayment, Allah shall take the most 'happiest' kafir of the Dunya and dip him in Jahannam (Hellfire). Then he shall ask him, "Have you ever seen any happiness?" The Kafir will say, "Never!" Nay, the happiness is only the happiness of the hereafter no matter what happens in this Dunya. Allah shall bring on the Day of Repayment the most tested human and dip him in Jannah (Paradise). He shall then ask him, "Have you ever seen sadness?" And that person shall say, "Never!" And don't think that this happiness and fun is exclusive to the hereafter. It is very much tied to this life as well. Listen and understand the words of Allah: **"Whoever works righteousness, whether male or female, while he (or she) is a true believer verily to him We will give a good life, and We shall pay them certainly a reward in proportion to the best of what they used to do"** (Surah An Nahl, 97).

Dear Sister, you have to understand that you or anyone may enter Hellfire! By Allah, we are not better than Fatimah, the daughter of RasulAllah (saw), and he said to her, **"O Fatimah the daughter of Muhammad, Ask me whatever you wish from my wealth, for I shall avail you but nothing to Allah."** Meaning that it doesn't matter if you're my daughter, if you don't work for Jannah, saying to Allah that my father is so and so will not help you in anyway. Islam is filled with many Mu'minahs that completed their Taqwa of Allah, then the other girls put up posters of kafir singers and kafir athletes and kafir actresses, you should put up posters in your heart of Fatimah and many other Mu'minahs. Dear Sister, your role models come to you from the Qur'an.

Do not be deceived by the "seemingly" good life of the kafir. Beware when you adopt their fashion, culture, and even their friendship. Ask a non-muslim what it is that he wants from you. Does he want you to be liberated? Liberated from what? From Allah and his Messenger? From the Qur'an and the Sunnah? From Jannah? From this Deen that Allah chose for you? And what is he going to give you in return? Happiness? By Allah, he does not own any happiness to give. Is he going to give you love and protection from punishment in the grave and from the gatekeepers of hellfire and from death? Why is it that they want to liberate young beautiful women? Why don't they liberate the seniors? Why don't they liberate the indigenous? Why don't they liberate the inmates? Why is their target audience a young, thin, tall women (their definition of beauty) between the age of 13 - 28? And why is their first call for you to take off your Hijab? Remember that friend if you consider him so carefully, for without any doubt, by Allah - he shall be your bitterest enemy on the day of Repayment: **[Friends on that day will be foes, one to another - except the Righteous] Surah Zukhruf (43/67).** One Kafirah summed up exactly what they think of women, "It's not who you are, it's what you wear and what you look like!" And listen to Fabian, a french 'model' (of what?), as she spit on the fashion industry. "Fashion houses made me into a mannequin, a wooden idol. The mission: to manipulate hearts and alter minds. I learnt how to be worthless, nothing on the inside, cold. We lived in a world of filth in all that filth means."

I shall conclude with the advice of Rasul Allah (saw) to every Muslim mother, daughter, and wife: "If the woman prays her five (Salah), fasts her month (of Ramadan), protects herself (from committing Zina), and listens to her husband, it will be said to her, 'from any door you wish, enter Paradise!" Sister, that is where you want to be. **[O ye who believe! give your response to Allah and His Messenger, when He calls you to that which shall give you life; and know that Allah cometh between a man and his heart, and that it is He to Whom ye shall (all) be gathered.] - (Q. 8:24) Allah and His Messenger are calling you to life. Dear Sister, Reply!**

Eid-ul Adha

Prayer

Will be held on Monday, March 5th at 8:30 a.m.
at HUNTSVILLE ISLAMIC CENTER

EID MUBARAK AND MAY ALLAH BLESS YOU ALL !!

***YOU** are kindly reminded to send in your pledges of contribution
for the expansion project of HIC.*

*Please help us collect the needed money by mailing in your
donations.*



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