



PARADISE

A Monthly Publication of Huntsville Islamic Center

June 2003

EDITORIAL

As we see our youth graduating, we wonder what's next for this generation of the ummah? Knowledge, degrees, and work are all good temporary goals; however, the ummah will not gain from them unless they are organized under a larger more continuous goal; and as young Muslims it is very important to have that goal. A person without a goal in his life will live and die an observer without making a difference.

Allah SWT has made specifying that goal easier for Muslims. "I have only created Jinns and men, that they may serve Me." (51:56). Our continuous life goal must be to know, worship, and serve Allah. This certainly does not only include praying and fasting and other common worship forms; rather, it must be the goal of every activity in our life. Every degree, job, and effort must be to serve Allah and support Islam. Combine your interests, talents, and qualifications with your love and servitude for Allah and set clear ambitious goals; follow a practical and timely plan to reach your goals; be patient, hard working, and optimistic.

Al-Bukhari was only 14 when he heard 2 scholars complaining about the mixture of authentic, weak, and untrue hadiths in books. His life goal became collecting volumes of authentic hadiths. Search for what the ummah needs, and set serious goals; this ummah is relying on you. You want to be the first Muslim to do what?

THE SUNNAH

Following the Sunnah (example) of the Prophet (peace be upon him) is a fundamental part of Islam.. Allah orders us in numerous places in the Qu'ran to obey Him and to obey the messenger. Alhumdulillah, the record of the Prophet's (sunnah) have been kept until the present day. It is to our own detriment, if we fail to study both the Qu'ran and the Sunnah.

To be a true Muslim, the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) must be followed. The sources of information about the Sunnah are found in Hadith (sayings and actions of the Prophet as well as things that he silently consented to). There are many authentic books of hadith from which these references are derived as well as scholars of hadith, who spend years of memorizing, studying and understanding the science of hadith.

When a Muslim knows the Qu'ran and seeks to obey the orders of Allah (ta'ala), it naturally follows that he/she will obey the Prophet (peace be upon him) as this is ordered by Allah in Qu'ran.

{**And obey Allah and the Messenger (Muhammad) that you may obtain mercy**}(3:132)

Islam is a way of life. Not just a set of orders, restrictions etc, but a spiritual, practical and natural development of the human being and society into a well organized, just and pious

state of being. Muslims are those who, by following the Prophet (peace be upon him), who was said to be the 'Qu'ran in action', develop characteristics that are esteemed by all. It is upon the base of such characters, that a truly Islamic society emerges.

The Muslim who follows the Sunnah, learns how to combine strength with gentleness, modesty with courage, patience with fortitude and spirituality with practicality. The Muslim who follows the sunnah of Muhammad (peace be upon him) is kind, gentle and generous to the family, hospitable to the guest, brave in battle and forgiving in victory. The Muslim who follows the Sunnah is modest in dress and manners, wealth is marked by humility and generosity, poverty is accompanied by patience, hope and effort, malice and revenge have no place in the heart and the constant love and fear of Allah (ta'ala) reigns supreme in both heart and mind, and is the pivot point of action in their lives.

May Allah (ta'ala) fortify our Iman and give us knowledge that is beneficial to us. May He, Who is the Most Merciful, let us appreciate the light of Islam, amidst the degeneration of mankind, and establish us on the way of the Sunnah.

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Ten Things We Waste

1. **Our Knowledge:** Wasted by not taking action with it .
2. **Our Actions:** Wasted by committing them without sincerity.
3. **Our Wealth:** Wasted by using on things that will not bring us ajr (reward from Allah). We waste our money, our status, our authority, on things which have no benefit in this life or in akhirah (hereafter).
4. **Our Hearts:** Wasted because they are empty from the love of Allah, and the feeling of longing to go to Him, and a feeling of peace and contentment. In it's place, our hearts are filled with something or someone else.
5. **Our Bodies:** Wasted because we don't use them in ibadah (worship) and service of Allah.
6. **Our Love:** Our emotional love is misdirected, not towards Allah, but towards something/someone else.
7. **Our Time:** Wasted, not used properly, to compensate for that which has passed, by doing what is righteous to make up for past deeds.
8. **Our Intellect:** Wasted on things that are not beneficial, that are detrimental to society and the individual, not in contemplation or reflection.
9. **Our Service:** Wasted in service of someone who will not bring us closer to Allah, or benefit in dunyaa.
10. **Our Dhikr (Remembrance of Allah):** Wasted, because it does not effect us or our hearts.

Dawa Program

The Common Thread: Religion, Politics, and Tolerance

**Weatherly Heights Baptist Church
1306 Cannstatt Dr., Huntsville, Alabama**

June 13, 2003 (6:30-9:30 P.M.)

Refreshments Provided

Speakers

Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Shah

- Ph.D. in Comparative Religion from University of Wales, U.K.
- Director of Islamic school and center of Broward County Florida.
- Former president of Islamic Circle of North America and Canada.
- Hafiz (memorization of Holy book "Quran").

Dr. William Baker

- Ph.D. in Archaeology
- Author of *More Common Than You Think: The Bridge Between Islam and Christianity* and many other books.
- Nationally and internationally recognized speaker.

We still need your generous donations and support
[Http://www.huntsvilleislamiccenter.org/dawaevent.html](http://www.huntsvilleislamiccenter.org/dawaevent.html)

Muslimah

HIC Sisters' Page

One Hour a day

**"Time is our capital in this life.
It has to be invested for the maximum possible return."**

When the Prophet, (saw) received the order to 'Arise and warn', he started calling others to Islam and continued to do so, day and night, until he died. Time was very important for him and he used every minute of it in the best possible way. He would meet regularly with his companions to teach them Qur'an and to warn them from disobeying Allah. He was an example to them in speech and in deeds.

The result of this education was that the companions' faith became the most important thing for them. And when they had to choose between their home, tribe and good living on the one hand and the companionship of the Prophet, (saw), on the other hand, they chose the latter and emigrated for the sake of Allah and exemplified sacrifice for the sake of one's belief. After thirteen years of hard work and sacrifice in Makkah, the Prophet and his companions were granted victory in Madinah.

How do our efforts today compare with those of the Prophet and his companions? One year of our life has passed. How many good deeds have we prepared for the day of judgment? What did we, as individuals and communities, do for Islam? Were we distracted by our money and our children from the obedience of Allah and Jihad for His sake? Allah said: *"O you who believe! Let not your money or your children divert you from the remembrance of Allah. If any act as such, then surely they are the losers."* (Qur'an, 63:9) The Prophet (saw), said: *"No servant will be let go on the day of judgment until he is asked about the four matters: His lifetime: How did he spend it? His knowledge: What did he use it for? His money: Where did he gain it from, and what did he spend in it? And his body: In what did he wear it away?"* (at-Tirmidhee) Have we used our bodies for fasting, praying, enjoining good and forbidding evil or have we used them up by succumbing to our desires?

Muslims have to realize the importance of time: that it is their capital in this life and that it is to be invested for the maximum possible return. Suppose for a minute that every Muslim dedicates one hour a day to work for the sake of Allah. In financial terms, this would generate a minimum of 1 billion dollars a day, 360 billion dollars a year! If such amount were to be reserved for Islamic work, it would change the face of the earth. Suppose that every Muslim were to spend one hour calling others to the path of Allah: millions would enter Islam!

Muslims today need to build their Ummah and revive it. And this does not come through futile discussions but rather through work, sincere, continuous, careful and planned. We need to strengthen the body of this Ummah and protect it from the dangers surrounding it. We need to deepen the awareness of the Muslims about their identity; their history, their wealth and that they are one single nation. And to start with, we need to invest in the Muslim individual because he is the real instrument for change.

(Editorial, The Friday Report (now Al-Jum'ah Magazine), V/1)

Note of Thanks - 2003 HIC Health Fair

On behalf of the Health Fair Organizing Committee and the Board of Directors of the Huntsville Islamic Center, we wish to extend our sincere appreciation for the support of the Huntsville Islamic community at the recent HIC Health Fair, Saturday, May 10th. Because of your support, Alhamdulillah, the health fair was a great success. Special thanks to all of the volunteers, donors, medical professionals, students and others who contributed towards the collective effort of organizing and hosting our 1st Health Fair for the benefit of the Muslim Ummah!

HIC Activities

Friday Night Study Circles: 8:00 p.m. –9:30 p.m.

Sunday Study Circle: 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Tajweed classes

For brothers: Wednesday 8:00-9:30 PM.

For sisters : Wednesday 10:30-11:30 A.M.

Short Reminders: Every Monday and Wednesday after Isha .

Prayer Times at the Masjid

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

Weekend Islamic School Announcements

Weekend Islamic School will reopen in Aug after summer break. The reopening date will be announced later. Parents must register their children for the next year in person. As a cost saving measure children are encouraged to return their books to the Weekend school administration.

Quran classes will be held during summer for children ages 8 and up. A fee of \$75 will be charged. Classes will be held on Thursdays and Fridays of each week from 10 am to 12 noon. The classes will start on June 5. Parents are encouraged to register their children for the classes by calling the Masjid.



Class 2003 Congratulations



Our congratulations to all brothers and sisters who graduated this year with PhD, Masters, Bachelors, or High School degrees. May Allah always be with you and our best wishes and prayers for you to be successful Muslims in your life.

Names of Allâh

" We shall show them Our Signs upon the horizons and within themselves until it is clear to them that it is the Real (the Truth)" (41:53).

Allah Self-disclosed through the manifestation of the Most Beautiful Names of which one Hadith relates the following Ninety-Nine Names of Allâh

3. Al-Malik: The Sovereign

"So high exalted be Allah, the Sovereign (Al-Malik)..." (20:114).

The Sovereign is the quality of being independent of all existing things while everything in existence is dependent upon it. Nothing can exist without Allah whether it be in respect of essence, qualities, existence, or continued being (baqâ'). Each and every thing derives its being from Allah or from something which is derived from Allah. Everything other than Allah is subject to Allah in respect to both its qualities and essence. But Allah has no need for anything. Allah, indeed, is the Sovereign in the absolute sense. In the sense of incomparability, Allah is absolutely independent of us. As an active quality, everything else is dependent upon Allah. Allah's kingdom consists of all possible things, including human beings. "To Him belongs the kingdom of the heavens and the earth" (2:107). The Messenger said, "Allah is the Lord and Sovereign of everything."

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