

PARADISE

Volume 9, Issue 05

A Monthly Publication of Huntsville Islamic Center

MAY 2001

PEACE BE UPON YOU

*"Asalamu Alaikum Warahamt-ullahi
Wabarakatuhu"*

*Peace be upon you and may
Allah's Mercy and Blessings be on you*
What a beautiful and a meaningful
greeting and salute that Islam teaches us
to use and spread among ourselves.
The Prophet Muhammad (*salla Allahu
alaihi wasallam*) once said:

*"You will not enter Paradise until you
believe and you will not believe until
you love one another. Shall I tell you
about something that if you do you will
love each other: Spread peace amongst
yourselves"*

narrated by Muslim, Ahmad, and Tirmidhi

In this great *Hadith* the Prophet wanted
us to love each other and be humble and
compassionate towards each other and
the way to achieve that is by spreading
PEACE among ourselves by first uttering
the *Salam* greetings and secondly by
practicing it and living it everyday in
our lives.

If we practice this **PEACE** when deal-
ing with each other, whether we are
husband and wife, parents and children,
neighbors, or community members, then
we would've achieved the love in our
families and in our society.

This is the real love that will lead to for-
giveness and selflessness. This love will
cure our hearts from any hatred, envy,
and seeking revenge.

If we learn to let go when a problem or
a dispute arise between us, then we will
be practicing this **PEACE** first hand.

If we learn not to suspect or have ill
thoughts about each other, then we will
be living this **PEACE**.

If we learn to always find an excuse for
each other for a mistake that was com-
mitted even if we think it was inten-
tional, then our lives will be filled with
PEACE.

If we learn to always have a mutual re-
spect to each other without any bias or
prejudice, then **PEACE** will spread in
our families and societies.

*Asalamu Alaikum;
Majdi*

THE SINCER BELIEVER

Allah the Most High says in a story / narration about Iblees,

*"(Iblees) said: O my Lord! Because you mislead me, I shall indeed adorn the
path of error for them (mankind) on the earth, and I shall mislead them all. Ex-
cept Your chosen (guided) slaves" [15:39-40]*

He - the Exalted also says this in another story,

*"(Iblees) said: By your Might, then I will surely mislead them all, except your
chosen slaves amongst them." [38:82-83]*

Allah selects for Himself those of His servants who purify and devote themselves
for Him, ridding their souls of desire for His sake. they worship Allah as if they
see him, and although they do not see Allah, He does indeed see them. Shaytaan
has no power or authority over them.

This is the condition that Iblees clearly understands - may Allah's Curse be upon
him. He knows that there is no way but his because the Sunnah of Allah is for
whoever wants to benefit himself, so take precaution against him and protect your-
selves from him. The Divine response to the disobedient rebel is:

*"This is the Way that will lead straight to Me. Certainly, you shall have no au-
thority over My slaves, except those who follow you of the (ghaween) the wrong
doers. And surely hell is the promised place for them all. It (Hell) has seven
gates, for each of those gates is a (special) class (of sinners) assigned." [15:41-44]*

This is the path, the law and the way which Allah is pleased with. There will
never be found any change or alteration of any type in this way.

Indeed Shaytaan has no authority over the sincere slaves of Allah. He cannot influ-
ence them for they are out of his reach. They are well protected against him be-
cause the entrance to their souls is blocked for him. They are such who turn their
faces towards Allah by day and by night.

Shaytaan only has authority over his misled and misguided followers and even
they are an exception because the misguided are not amongst the sincere slaves of
Allah.

Shaytaan does not hunt the lean and slender ones who cut off from the caravan of
the sincere people, just as the wolf devours the lone sheep.

So as for those who purify their religion for Allah and don't abandon their truthful
friends for the ones in error and loss, then indeed his mercy is vast for them. If
they were to fall behind, they would soon realize their shortcoming and redress
their mistake as their Lord informs us about them in the clear noble Qur'an.

*"Verily, those who are pious, when an evil thought comes to them from Shay-
taan, they remember (Allah), and indeed they then see (aright)." [7:201]*

When Shaytaan inflicts a person with his touch it is blinding, and it obstructs the
vision, but fear of Allah along with contemplation and submission to Him enables
the heart to become connected with Allah. This state arouses the heart from ne-
glecting His guidance so that those with *Taqwa* remember, and when they make re-
membrance of Allah their vision is opened and covering is removed so that they be-
come clear sighted.

While the touch of Shaytaan is certainly blinding the remembrance of Allah is
enlightening. Darkness lies in Shaytaan's touch and there is light in the direction to-
wards Allah which manifests the garb of this enemy of Allah, and he has no control
over the *Muttaqoon* [Those of Allah's slaves who have *Taqwa*].

What does Islam say about domestic violence?



Islam condemns domestic violence. Once a number of women came to the prophet, on whom be peace, to complain that their husbands had beaten them. The prophet announced that men who beat their wives are not good men. The prophet also said, "Do not beat the female servants of Allah."

Allah knows that life is not always a bowl of cherries. And so He stipulates that a man must be kind to his wife even if he happens to dislike her (Qur'an 4-19). Allah offers a good reason as to why men should not dislike their wives. Allah says that He has placed much good in women (Qur'an 4:19).

In this regard the prophet Muhammad, on whom be peace, said that no believing man should hold a grudge against a believing woman. So what is a husband to do if he dislikes some things about his wife? This is bound to occur, since no human being is perfect. The prophet instructed that men should look for the agreeable traits in their wives rather than focus on their faults. (See Saheeh Muslim, chapter on advice relating to women).

The prophet also advised men that if they wish to benefit from marriage they should accept their wives as they are rather than try to straighten them out and thus end up in divorce.

In the following verse of the Qur'an, Allah warns men that if they retain their wives in marriage it should not be to take advantage of them. The verse reads: "**Retain them in kindness or release them in kindness. But do not retain them to their hurt so that you transgress (the limits). If anyone does that he wrongs his own soul. Do not take God's instructions as a jest**" (2:231).

Once the prophet, on whom be peace, was asked what are the obligations of husbands toward their wives. He replied: "Feed her when you eat, and provide her clothing when you provide yourself. Neither hit her on the face nor use impolite language when addressing her" (See Mishkat, chapter on the maintenance of women).

The prophet equated perfect belief with good treatment to one's wife when he said: "The most perfect believer is one who is the best in courtesy and amiable manners, and the best among you people is one who is most kind and courteous to his wives" (see Tirmidhi, chapter on the obligations of a man to his wife). Finally, the prophet, the best example of conduct said: "The best among you is the one who treats his family best."

Some of the last words of the prophet delivered during the farewell pilgrimage enjoins that men should hold themselves accountable before Allah concerning the question of how they treat their wives. Therefore his advice to all men, is as follows: "**You must treat them with all kindness.**"

Prayer Times at the Masjid

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

ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS

Friday Halaqah: 7:45-9:30 p.m
 Two separate study circles for brothers and sisters.
Sunday Halaqah (summer session) 11:00-1:00
Qur'anic Tafseer followed by and a general topic.
Short Reminder:
 Every Monday and Wednesday after *Isha* Prayer.

It is Construction Time!!

Alahamdu lillah, the General Assembly of Huntsville Islamic Center has unanimously approved the *Youth and Educational Center* expansion plans during its special meeting that was held on Saturday, May 19, 2001.

The approval was the first step to go ahead with the proposed plans, with some suggestions for the Expansion Committee to look at. The second step is the most important which is to collect the rest of the pledges that our brothers and sisters in our community has promised to give to support the project. Also, more donations are needed to cover all phases of the project.

Thank you for your generous support in the past and we are looking forward for your continuous support in the future. May Allah bless you all and bless your family and wealth.





Muslimah...

HIC Sisters' Page
 Editor: Sr. Zakiyyah Shakoor

Attributes of the *I*deal *M*uslim *H*usband

Religious Commitment is the most important thing a Muslimah should look for in the man she want to marry. The husband should be a Muslim who adheres to all the laws and teachings of Islam in his daily life. The woman's guardian (wali) should strive to check out this matter, and not rely only on outward appearances. One of the most important things to ask about is the man's prayer (salaah); the one who neglects the rights of Allah is more likely to neglect the rights of others. The true believer does not oppress or mistreat his wife; if he loves her, he honors her, and if he does not love her, he does not mistreat or humiliate her. Allah says: "*And verily, a believing slave is better than a (free) Mushrik (idolater), even though he pleases you*" [al-Baqarah 2:221], "*Verily, the most honorable of you with Allah is that (believer) who has At-Taqwaa [i.e. piety]*" [al-Hujuraat 49:13] "*Good statements are for good people (or good women for good men) and good people for good statements (or good men for good women)*" [al-Noor 24:26] The Prophet (saw) said: "If there comes to you one whose religious commitment and attitude pleases you, then marry [your female relative who is under your care] to him, for if you do not do that, there will be tribulation on earth and much corruption." (Sunan Tirmidhi, 1084).

As well as being religiously committed, it is preferable that he should come from a good family and a known lineage. If two men come to propose marriage to one woman, and they are equal in terms of religious commitment, then preference should be given to the one who comes from a good family that is known for its adherence to the commands of Allah, so long as the other person is not better than him in terms of religious commitment – because the righteousness of the husband's close relatives could be passed on to his children and his good origins and lineage may make him refrain from many foolish and cheap actions. The righteousness of the father and grandfather are beneficial to the children and grandchildren. By the same token, if the husband comes from a righteous family and his parents are good, Allah will make things easy for him and protect him as an honor to his parents. It is good if he has sufficient wealth to keep him and his family from having to ask people for anything, because the Prophet (saw) said to Faatimah bint Qays (radw), when she came to consult him about three men who had proposed marriage to her, "As for Mu'aawiyah, he is a poor man who has no wealth..." (Muslim, 1480).

It is not essential that he should be a businessman or rich, it is sufficient for him to have an income that will keep him and his family from having to ask people for anything. If there is a choice between a man who is religiously committed and a man who is wealthy, then the religious man should be given preference over the wealthy man. It is preferable that he should be kind and gentle towards women, because the Prophet (saw) said to Faatimah bint Qays, in the hadeeth quoted above, "As for Abu Jaham, his stick never leaves his shoulder", referring to the fact that he used to beat women a lot. It is good if he is sound of body and healthy, free of faults, sickness, etc., and not disabled or sterile. It is preferable that he should have knowledge of the Qur'an and Sunnah ; if you find someone like this it is good, otherwise you should realize that this is something rare.

It is permissible for the woman to look at the man who comes to propose marriage, and for him to look at her. This should be in the presence of her mahram, and it is not permitted to look more than is necessary, or for him to see her alone, or for her to go out with him on her own, or to meet repeatedly for no reason. According to Islam, the woman's wali (guardian) should check on the man who proposes marriage to the woman who is under his guardianship; he should ask those whom he trusts among those who mix with him and who know him, about his commitment to Islam and his trustworthiness. He should ask them for an honest opinion and sincere, sound advice. Before and during all of this, you must turn towards Allah and pray to Him to make it easy for you and help you to make a good choice and to grant you wisdom. Then after all these efforts, when you have decided on a particular person, **you should pray Istikhaarah, asking Allah for that which is good. Then after you have done your utmost, put your trust in Allah, for He is the best of helpers, may He be glorified.**

(The above article was adapted from Jaami' Ahkaam al-Nisaa' by Shaykh Mustafaa al-'Adawi Shaykh Saleh Al-Munajjid)

Class 2001, 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.

Community News:

- * The 2000 Youth Banquet that was organized by the F.A.I.T.H. youth group was held on Saturday, May 5th and *alahmdu lillah* was successful. Everyone enjoyed listening to a lecture given by Br. Monem Salam from Texas. The lecture was about Muslim youth and education. Good job girls!!
- * The HIC picnic that was managed by the Youth Boys Group was held on Saturday, May 12th and *alahmdu lillah* was successful. The attendance was good and the food was excellent. Good job boys!!

PARADISE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF HUNTSVILLE ISLAMIC CENTER
1645 SPARKMAN DRIVE HUNTSVILLE, AL 35816 (256) 721-1712

**Huntsville Islamic Center
 1645 Sparkman Dr.
 Huntsville, AL 35816**

**Nonprofit Org.
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Huntsville, AL
 Permit # 615**