

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Piece of Advice	3
The Essence of Unity in Islam & The Current Muslim World	3
Event: Opening the Door for Our Differences	5
Can Allah's Deen be Harmed?	6
Health: Hypertension	7
Poem: My Sisters in Islam	8
Companion: Father of the Dust (Abu Turab)	9
Hadith: Women's Rights	9
Reverences in Verses	10
The Muslim Man & The Dog	12
Dar Al-Hijrah Activities	12

The Essence of Unity in Islam & The Current Muslim World

✎ by Abdikarim Haille, Teacher of Salahudin Islamic School

Imam Hassan Al-Banna defined Islam in the first principle of his book *Fahm-ul-Islam*, (Understanding Islam in the Shade of the Twenty Principles): Islam is a systematic way of life that affects all the aspects of our lives; it is a government and country, or administration and Ummah (nation); it is a good conduct and power, or mercy and justice; it is a culture and rule of law, or knowledge and judicial system; it is material subjects and assets, or innovation and wealth. It is jihad (striving) for the common good, and propagate, or military force and idea. As it is a true creed and faith, a correct worship and vice versa.

Therefore Muslims have one ambition in here and after, since the correct definition of Islam is in the above principle. Allah states in the Qur'an numerous times the importance of unity in Islam, so has the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) as well. Islam is built upon unison, thus Muslims whether as an individual, family, or a nation at large are inter-independent...

➤ continued on pg. 3

Can Allah's Deen be Harmed?

✎ by Fartun Ahmed, Student of Salahudin Islamic School

Ayan Hirsi Ali has been one of the most controversial figures of the 21st century. Hirsi Ali was born as a Muslim; her parents were Somalis and had high standards when it comes to the religion of Islam. Unfortunately, Ayan became an atheist, one who does not believe in God. She claims that she left Islam because Islam oppresses women, uncles beat their nieces, fathers force their daughters to unwanted marriage, and mothers practice female genital mutilation.

➤ continued on pg. 6

EDITORS LETTER



All praises and thanks are due to Allah, the Exalted, for guiding us into Islam. Many thanks are to the founders, designers, organizers, sponsors, and managers of *Salahudin journal*.

Reading is essential for one to educate him or herself, and without writing one cannot read and the two are interconnected. And in this era, writing has become a phenomenon aspect of our lives. This journal is part of the community that promotes education and knowledge.

Salahudin Islamic School has been serving the Muslim community in Minnesota for number of years. It has passed through different level of situations that has encouraged its staffs, students, teachers, and parents to double their efforts to promote for the wellbeing of the society.

Now, it has become at a level which its students are the founders of this journal. Many of these students, despite their busy lives, try hard to acquire Islamic knowledge and at the same time spread these knowledge they have gained. Just yesterday these students were young children, today they are the role models, and tomorrow they will be our future leaders.

We are very proud to recognize and acknowledge their achievements thus far, and we encourage them to continue this responsibility and leadership that they have undertaken.

In addition, we also like to thank their teachers who have shaped and taught them the essentials of life in here and after through the core teachings of Islam. Being a teacher is not an easy task; nevertheless, it has the best rewards as our prophet has said— *the best of you is the one who learned the Quran and teaches others*.

We also thank the administration of Dar Al-Hijrah and its affiliates for providing to us the nurturing environment and the necessities to accomplish our future goals.

And lastly, we hope the Muslim community, in Minnesota and elsewhere, to stay stronger and united to strive for a better future.

Jazakalahuma-kheyran.

CHAIR:
QAALI MOHAMED

VICE-CHAIR:
FARTUN AHMED

EDITORS:
AMINA NUR
NAFISA MOALIM

SECRETARY:
NASTEEHO MOALIM

MANAGERS:
QAALI MOHAMED
FARTUN AHMED
NASTEEHO MOALIM

SSU@DARALHIJRAH.COM

504 CEDAR AVE SUITE #2
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55454
(612) 339-4235

SPONSORED BY
SALAHUDIN ISLAMIC SCHOOL

SUPERVISED BY
DAR AL-HIJRAH YOUTH COUNCIL
(DYC)

DYC@DARALHIJRAH.COM

SALAHUDIN JOURNAL

Piece of Advice

✎ by Hamdi Muse, Student of Salahudin Islamic School

All praises and thanks are due to Allah, the Lord of the universe.

“Oh you who believe! Avoid suspicion as much as possible for suspicion in some cases is a sin: spy not on each other, nor speak ill of each other, nor speak ill of each other behind their backs. Would any of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother...But fear Allah: for Allah is Oft-Returning, Most Merciful” (49:12).

Brothers and sisters, this is the word of our Lord Most High Most Merciful. Brothers and sisters we must not ruin each other's reputations by speaking ill and backbiting about each other. How would you feel if you could not walk on the face of the earth because of embarrassment; it is not fun. As Muslims this situation has prevailed us because we ruin each other's reputation by speaking ill and giving other people false information. Even if you do not give false information you must keep things undercover so that you can guard the person's dignity. As you all know to protect *dignity* is one of the essentials of Islam.

Brothers and sisters, please take this piece of advice and do not ruin relationships because of this unnecessary talk. Allah will reward you for every good thing that you do, say, or even think about, and as our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) has said “ If you believe in Allah and the last day say something good or do not say anything at all” (Recorded: Bukhari and Muslim) .

The Essence of Unity in Islam & The Current Muslim World

✎ by Abdikarim Haille, Teacher of Salahudin Islamic School

Imam Hassan Al-Banna defined Islam in the first principle of his book *Fahm-ul-Islam*, (Understanding Islam in the Shade of the Twenty Principles): Islam is a systematic way of life that affects all the aspects of our lives; it is a government and country, or administration and Ummah (nation); it is a good conduct and power, or mercy and justice; it is a culture and rule of law, or knowledge and judicial system; it is material subjects and assets, or innovation and wealth. It is jihad (striving) for the common good, and propagate, or military force and idea. As it is a true creed and faith, a correct worship and vice versa.

Therefore Muslims have one ambition in here and after, since the correct definition of Islam is in the above principle. Allah states in the Qur'an numerous times the importance of unity in Islam, so has the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) as well. Islam is built upon unison, thus Muslims whether as an individual, family, or a nation at large are inter-independent. In other words, one could not live without his or her fellow Muslims. Sadly enough, the modern Muslim world is far differing than what Islam has described about unity. It is necessary for one to understand that if he or she failed to unify with his or her people, it is their failure of not following the instruction and not that of the Deen (religion) whatsoever. Unfortunately many non-Muslims have received bad images about Islam due to the actions and behaviors of some Muslims. Many Muslims failed to convey the message of Islam to its accordance.

The building blocks of Islam actually expounded the unity of the Ummah. Thus Muslims believe in and have six things which any other nation or religion in the world does not have or share. Muslims believe in and have:

1. One God (Allah),
2. One scripture (book), the Muslim holy book
3. One direction (qibla) during their prayer
4. Paying the obligatory alms annually
5. Performing the pilgrimage annually
6. One Imam* during the prayer

* He does not have to be the richest or poorest, oldest or youngest, a leader or follower, etc. However he ought to be the best knower and reciter of the Qur'an whom the congregations agreed upon.

Muslims share all this and many more that Allah has granted to them to specify the fundamental meaning of unity. Qur'an states several times the significant of unity among the Ummah. The following interpretation Allah emphasizes the value of unity in the Ummah.

"And hold fast, all of you together, to the Rope of Allah (e.i. the Qura'an) and not be divided among yourselves, and remember Allah's favor on you, for you were enemies one to another but He joined your hearts together, so that, by His Grace, you became brethren (in Islamic Faith), and you were on the brink of a pit of a fire, and He saved you from it. Thus, Allah makes His ayat (proofs, evidence, verses, lessons, signs, revelation, etc) clear to you, that you may be guided" (3:103).

Holding steadfast together the Qur'an and Prophet's way of life is the first priority of this Ummah. Allah said in another verse,

"And verily this is your religion (of Islamic Monotheism) is one religion, and I am your lord, so keep your duty to Me" (18:52).

This denotes that Muslims have to worship one God and follow one book, so based on this, Muslims have one objective. The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadeeth being within a gathering is mercy and being out of it is hell. In addition, kindness and compassionateness are the cornerstones of Islam.

For instance, Muslims are like fingers of one person that are interconnected, if one finger of these gets hurt all the other fingers feel the same. It means that if one Muslim brother or sister feels pain, hungry, or is afflicted with any other dilemma for that matter, other Muslim brothers and sisters should feel the same way. It is inappropriate behavior for a Muslim person to live in a luxury and happy life while his or her Muslim neighbor is starving or facing difficulties. Mistrust, disunity, corruption, and war on the earth would be the consequences if Muslims failed to follow these guidelines.

Allah said *"And those who disbelieve are allies of one another, (and) if you (Muslims of the whole world collectively) do not do so (i.e. become allies, as one united block under one Khalifah (a chief Muslim ruler for the whole Muslim world) to make victorious Allah's religion of Islamic Monotheism), there would be Fitnah (wars, battles, polytheism) and oppression on the earth, and a great mischief and corruption (appearance of Polytheism)" (8:73).*

The majority of Muslims have become the practical form of the above verse in this century. OPEC, Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, is composed of 11 countries which 10 of these are from Muslim nations. Despite their petroleum richness yet most of their beneficiaries are not of other Muslim nations. However these 10 nations are facing war, debt, starvation, etc, just like any other fellow Muslim nation. They are not allies to one another, yet they fight against each other. Contrariwise, the western nations have made pact to support each other collectively as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) or G-8 are examples set forth. In comparison with the 10 Muslim nations in OPEC, nations within NATO or G-8 can or will not fight each other because of their collective security. For instance, Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1991; however nations within NATO, have never invaded each other since their establishment. Rather than helping and supporting each other as other nations do, Muslim nations became devices and puppets for nations who despise their existence as Muslims. Their bases and intelligent are used by non-Muslims to invade Muslim countries, and not only that but hatred has been created to instigate among them.

When one fails to follow his or her ordains, and prefers his or her fraternize in faith over others the following scenario would take place as a consequence. The story of the following three Bulls is widely known as an example for unity and consequence when that unity is broken. These bulls lived in a bush and they have been very close friends and helpers of each other for long time. An area not far away from them a lion lived, who did not associate with them because he was fearful of them due to their strong unity.

One day the lion created a plot and visited them. The lion requested from the bulls if he could join them and be friend with them. Unfortunately, the bulls accepted the lion's request. After a while of their friendship, the lion held a secret meeting with two of the bulls, the red and black, and he excluded the white bull. The lion told the two bulls that the white bull is periling and jeopardizing their lives, for his bright color (whiteness) the enemy sees them during the night. Thus he convinced them as allies that they should kill the white bull. The two bulls agreed with the lion, so they killed their friend together.

Soon after, the lion held another secret meeting with the red bull and excluded the black bull. The lion told the red bull that the black bull is risking their lives as the white bull because of his dark color the enemy sees them during daylight. Thus, the lion persuaded the red bull so they killed the black bull as they killed the white bull before. Afterwards, the lion came to the red bull with a mocking laughter, so the red bull asked surprisingly why. "What are you waiting?" replied the lion. "What do you mean 'what are you waiting?'" responded the red bull. "I want to kill you and eat you alone for you have lost all of your friends," the lion said in return. The red bull, with the understanding of the lion's plot, replied "You are not killing me right now, but you have killed me when we took the life of my white friend together."

The modern Muslim world has been rendered to disbelieve after they have believed, and disunity, disconnection, and corruption among their fraternization and their God have been created amongst them. I leave you with this verse so that you and I will make a correlation between the story and our modern Muslim world. Allah said "O you who believe! If you obey a group of those who were given the scripture (people of the book), they would (indeed) render you disbelievers after you have believed" (3:100).

Dar Al-Hijrah Youth Council (DYC) presents for the Muslim youth:

Opening the Door for Our Differences

Friday August 17, 2007 @ 6:30pm—9:00pm

Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Civic Center
504 Cedar Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55454

for more information on this event and more, please visit us at:

www.daralhijrah.com

Can Allah's Deen be Harmed?

✎ by Fartun Ahmed, Student of Salahudin Islamic School

Ayan Hirsi Ali has been one of the most controversial figures of the 21st century. Hirsi Ali was born as a Muslim; her parents were Somalis and had high standards when it comes to the religion of Islam. Unfortunately, Ayan became an atheist, one who does not believe in God. She claims that she left Islam because Islam oppresses women, uncles beat their nieces, fathers force their daughters to unwanted marriage, and mothers practice female genital mutilation.

What Ayan does not understand is that Islam does not promote any of those misconceptions, rather it deforms them. Ayan has criticized many things regarding Islam. She said that the Quran is corrupt and it was not sent down by God but written by mankind. She also said that Allah does not help the innocents. In her film *Submission*, which sparked a lot of anger in the Muslim community she said:

“The verdict that killed my faith in love is in your holy book. Faith in your.... Submission to you ... feels like... it self-betrayal”.

In the film she said Allah remains silent like the grave that she longs for. She also stated that the Quran is the verdict thus making it corrupt since it killed what she called her *faith in love*. Ayan used unspeakable words to describe about Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

“Muhammad is seen by our western standards as a pervert.” “Measured by our western standards Muhammad is a tyrant ...” “He is against freedom of expression if you do not do as he says you will be punished.” “Do you think it is strange there is a Saddam Hussein? Muhammad is his example.” “Muhammad is an example for Muslim men, do you think it's strange that so many Muslim men are violent.”

Ayan has not stopped there she made a movie, which was produced by Theo Van Gough. The movie was titled “Submission,” it portraits a young female praying with a transparent garment, an act that humiliates every Muslim woman. She added to the young female's body small chapters of the Quran, which were literally written on her body.

Ayan's goal is to get rich by trying to dim the Light of Allah but that would be impossible. It is just as same as trying to draw a picture on water. She has written several books, including *Infidel*. In *Caged Virgin* she speaks about how she was treated. Ayan does not tell the true, she makes up false information because she obviously cannot make a living of her own. As Muslims, What do we do about this? Do we just sit there and watch all of this happen? Of course violence is not the best way. However, there are some other ways that we get our message across. Our beloved prophet Muhammad (saw) said,

“Whosoever of you sees evil let him stop it with his hand; and if he is not able to do so let him stop it with his word, and if he is not able to do so let him hate it then with his heart –and that is the weakest of faith” (narrated by Muslim).

Allah the Almighty has said in the Quran, Indeed (many) Messengers were mocked before you (O Muhammad SAW), but the scoffers were surrounded by that, whereat they used to mock” (21:41).

Despite of what Ayan does, she will never decrease Islam or the Prophet’s compassion, love, kindness, honesty, peacefulness, and knowledge. The prophet (saw) said, that Allah said, “O, my slave were the first of you, and the last of you, the human of you, and the jinn of you, to rise up in one piece and make of me, and I wee to give everyone what he requested, that would not decrease what I have anymore than a needle decreases the sea if put into it” (narrated by Muslim). We universally know that she will never hurt Allah’s prophet and His religion in anyway.

Finally, Allah the Almighty said:

“Everyone is going to taste death, and We shall make a trial of you with evil and with good, and to Us you will be returned” (21:35). She will be dealt with justly on the Day of Judgment. Allah said in the Quran, *“And We shall set up balances of justice on the Day of Resurrection, then none will be dealt with unjustly in anything. And if there be the weight of a mustard seed, We will bring it. And Sufficient are We as Reckoners” (21:47).*

Health: Hypertension

✎ by Abdikarim Haille, Teacher of Salahudin Islamic School

Hypertension (blood pressure) is the pressure exerted by the blood against the walls of the arteries. Arteries are the blood vessels that carry oxygenated blood from the heart to the rest of the body organs. Blood Pressure is read in two fractional numbers: the numerator (top) number occurs when the heart beats or contracts, and it is called systolic pressure. The denominator (bottom) number happens between beats when the heart rests or relaxes, and it is called diastolic pressure. Thus, the more blood exerts against the walls of the arteries, the higher the pressure would be.

Blood pressure is measured with inflatable arm cuff and pressure-measuring blood gauge in millimeters of mercury (mmHg). For example, 120 mmHg for systolic pressure, and 80 mmHg for diastolic pressure, it is written as 120/80 mmHg. This level is known as a normal blood pressure; however, if the number is higher it could cause problems, which could lead to cardiovascular diseases.

Therefore, blood pressure is not only a disease, but it is both a disease and a risk to the life of the victim. It could lead to the following:

- Arteriosclerosis: arteries become stiff and thick, so it will be difficult for the blood to flow in them. Be cause there is lipid inside the tunica media of the arteries
- Heart attack: oxygen supplier, coronary circulation, becomes blocked and cardiac muscle cells die due to lack of oxygen
- Stroke: interruption of the blood being supplied to the brain.
- Kidney failure: loss of the ability to filter waste fluids from the system.

The cause of blood pressure is not actually known, however, the most common indicators are:

- Lack of exercise
- Stress
- Salt intake
- Alcohol intake
- Smoking
- Obesity
 - All of the above are known as primary.
- Medical consumptions
 - This is known as secondary.

Treatments

- More exercise
- Quitting or reducing alcohol intake
- Quitting smoking.

Poem: My Sisters in Islam

✎ by Qaali Mohamed, Student of Salahudin Islamic School

No longer shackled by the oppression
Of miniskirts and see-through skirts,
My sisters stand proud.

Covered by cloth and more so by conviction
Submission to Allah, they stand apart from the crowd.
The taunts, the jeers, the stares, the leers
Never fazing or dissuading them from following the Deen.
Real women thy be, the epitome of femininity
strong, secure, complete human beings.
Not slaves to the world of fashion

Which is always asking
For women to dress in as less as they can.
Their hijab is for the sake of Allah
In Imaan and Taqwa
They refuse to be objectified by man.
Such are my sisters in Islam.

Do not forget to join us online with more information about **SJ**:

www.daralhijrah.com / ssu@daralhijrah.com

Companion: Father of the Dust (Abu Turab)

✎ by Nasteeho Moalim, Student of Salahudin Islamic School

Ali Ibn Abi Talib was the cousin of the prophet. He grew up in the prophet's house. Allah blessed Ali in many ways when Allah guided him to Islam. Ali was only ten years old when he embraced the religion of Islam. One day when Ali came home, he saw the prophet and his wife praying. After Ali asked the prophet (pbuh), he told him about Islam and then advised him to become a Muslim.

"Ali said that he would first like to ask his father about it. He spent a sleepless night, and in the morning he went to the Prophet and said, "When God created me He did not consult my father, so why should I consult my father in order to serve God?" and he accepted the truth of Muhammad's message." Ali was named by many nick names, mostly by the prophet. For example, on one day the prophet saw Ali sleeping on the floor and there were dust all over Ali. Therefore, he called him the "*Abu Turab*," father of the dust. The Messenger of Allah also nicknamed Ali the "lion of Allah" because of his strong faith.

Ali was always by the prophet's side through all the difficult times he faced. When the next verse was revealed, "When the Divine command came, 'And warn thy nearest relatives' [26:214], Muhammad (peace be on him) invited his relatives for a meal. After it was finished, he addressed them and asked, 'Who will join me in the cause of God?' There was utter silence for a while, and then Ali stood up. 'I am the youngest of all present here,' he said, 'My eyes trouble me because they are sore and my legs are thin and weak, but I shall join you and help you in whatever way I can.'"

Ali was always by the prophet's side on almost every battle. Ali was one of the companions who were told during their lifetime that they will go to paradise. Ali was also the fourth Rightly-Guided Caliph. He always treated people equal. Also his care for the poor people has not changed when Ali became a leader. One day while Ali was sleeping on the ground by a tree, a man took his garment. When Ali saw the man wearing his 'only' garment on another day, Ali accused him that he took his garment. Obviously, the man refused to admit that he stole the garment. Therefore, they went to the judge. The judge was one of Ali's sons. Ali came up to him and told him to judge them fairly. When his son asked the man and his father for a witness, the man had one but Ali did not. Ali's son could have been the witness for his father, but the religion of Islam does not allow a family member to be a witness. Therefore, Ali accepted that he could not get his garment back. After the man saw how Ali was a fair leader and that he did not take advantage of his leadership, the man

Hadith: Women's Rights

✎ by Qamar Mohamed, Student of Salahudin Islamic School

For many centuries, some people have taken Islam as a religion that oppresses women. The truth and fact is that Islam gives more rights to women than any other religion in the world. Islam gave women rights during the time of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) way before many western women were even given the right to vote. On top of that, in Islam men and women get equal pay whereas in western societies today men usually make more money than women.

Another fact to look at is that in Islam women are modest and cover up their bodies while many western societies use women to sell their products. Nowadays everything you buy has pictures of women who are half

naked on the cover of the product. Exactly what rights do women have who sell and use their body?

Here are couple of hadiths (sayings of the prophet) about the rights and importance of women in Islam. A women named Khansa bint Khidam (may Allah reward her) said, “My father has forced me to marry my cousin in order to raise his own status (in the eye of the people)”. The prophet (saw) told her that she was free to dissolve this marriage and chose whomever she wished to marry. She replied, “I accept my father’s choice, but my aim was to let the women know that fathers have no right to interfere” (*Ahmed An-Wasi and Ibn Majah*). Many people around the world believe that in Islam women do not chose who they marry, rather it is forced on them, the above hadith just proved the myth of that stereotype.

A majority of non-Muslims also think that Muslim women are good for nothing except having children and taking care of their husbands. The fact is that Muslim women can do more than that, the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) once said, “And acquiring knowledge is compulsory for every Muslim” (*At-Tabarani*). Muslim women cannot only get an education but it becomes an obligatory.

Finally, the last thing that Muslim women have that most western women do not have is the honor of motherhood. In many western societies, young adults throw their parents especially their mothers into nursing homes. Islam does not oppress women rather it defames oppression. In Islam women play a huge role in their community. They are the backbone of the community as a whole and on top of that they are the most respected type of women in world.

Reverences in Verses

✎ by Kaamil Haider, Dar Al-Hijrah Media Director

Reflecting and contemplating on the majestic book of Allah, the Prophet (pbuh) said that “it is either a proof for you or against you” [1]. One of the main *raison d’être* is that the Quran contains commands and prohibitions intended for all of people. It is the words of God recorded in such a manner that when people open up the Criterion randomly, they would find verses in favor or against of what they were looking for. Hence, it is the first resource that we as Muslims lean to in terms of finding legal and personal advice.

The Quran is also a reminder; “Verily it is We Who have sent down the Dhikr (i.e. the Quran) and surely, We will guard it (from corruption)” [2]. Dhikr is also another word for “reminder.” It reminds us of how our ancient generations were treated depending on their deeds and sincerity to God giving warning ahead to us. In addition, one of the often repeated verses in the Quran is “Verily, those who believe and work deeds of righteousness...”[2]. The Ulama (Muslim scholars) elucidate the importance of these types of verses deeply because believing and doing good deeds in accordance with the Laws of God are the two enlightened elements of every believer. And the Laws of God are embedded within the content of the Quran.

Thus, Hatim Al-Asam came to know of this very well at his peak of life in the early 800s A.D. Al-Asam lived during the Caliph Harun Ar-Rasheed and had series of problems with the caliph like any other Taabi’een (followers after the Companions) before and after his time. This text below is an excerpt of the letters of advice from Abu Hamid Al-Ghazali to one of his best students educating about the wisdom of Hatim Al-Asam in *Dear Beloved Son*:

Hatim Al-Asam was among the friends of Shaiq Al-Balkhi (may Allah have mercy on them both). One day Shaiq asked Hatim: “You have kept my company for thirty years; what have you gained in the course of these years?” Hatim replied: “I have gained eight benefits from the knowledge which is sufficient for me. I hope my salvation and safety are embodied in them.” Shaiq asked Hatim to mention them.

Hatim Al-Asam said: “The first benefit is that I observed the creation and saw that everyone had a loved one and one passionately desired whom he loved and longed for. Some of the beloved accompany the lover up to the brink of sickness and death and other to the gate of the graveyard. All of them return and leave him there alone. No one goes into the tomb with him. I looked into the matter and said to myself: “The best beloved is that which would enter the tomb with the lover to console him”; I found it to be nothing else than good works, so I took this as my beloved, to illuminate my grave for me and to comfort me in it and not leave me alone.”

“The second benefit is that I saw that people were following their lusts and hastening towards the desires of the souls; and I meditated on the saying of Allah the Exalted: But as for whoever has feared the majesty of his Lord and has refrained his soul from lust, truly the Garden shall be his dwelling place (Quran, 79:40-41). Convinced that the Quran was true and right, I began to deny my soul [its pleasures] and hurried to combat it and refuse it its passionate desires, until it enjoyed real satisfaction in obedience to Allah the Exalted.”

“The third benefit is that I saw that every human being is striving to accumulate as much as he can from the wreckage of this world and then holding on strongly to it. I meditated on the Quranic verse: What is with you must vanish; what is with Allah must endure (Quran, 19:96). So I gave freely my worldly possessions for His sake by distributing them among the poor so that it would be my provision in the future with Him the Exalted.”

“The fourth benefit is that some people whom I observed think that their dignity and honor lie in the multitude of their family and large clans. They were fascinated by these things. Others claimed honor and dignity in abundance of wealth and children, and they were proud of it. Some believed honor and power abide in appropriating the wealth of others, doing injustice to them and shedding their blood. Others considered dignity to consist of extravagance and spending wealth in a foolish manner. I meditated upon the saying of the Exalted: The most honored of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you (Quran, 49:13). I chose righteous for myself, convinced that the Quran is right and true and those claims and opinions of the people are all false and temporal.”

“The fifth benefit is that I found the people slandering each other and speaking ill of one another out of envy of fortune, power and knowledge. I meditated upon the saying of Allah: It is We who divide their livelihood among them in the life of this world (Quran, 43:32). I realized that the process of dividing livelihood is entirely in the hands of Allah since the beginning of time. Therefore, I never envied anyone and was satisfied with the distribution of All the Exalted. “

“The sixth benefit is that I saw people becoming enemies of each other for different reasons. I meditated upon the saying of Allah the Exalted: Verily, Satan is an enemy to you; so treat him as an enemy (Quran, 35:6). I became aware that enmity with anyone except Satan was not permissible.”

“The seventh benefit is that I saw everyone working very hard, exhausting themselves to obtain food and sustenance, tempted by doubts and forbidden things. They degraded themselves in humiliation. I pondered over the saying of Allah the Exalted: There is no moving creature on earth but that its sustenance is dependent on Allah (Quran, 11:6). I knew that my livelihood is guaranteed by Allah the Exalted, so I engaged myself in worship and cut off my covetousness of all else, other than Him.”

“The eighth benefit is that I saw that everyone relied on some created thing, some on the dinar and dirham, some on wealth and property, some on trade and craft and some on creatures like themselves. I meditated upon the saying of the Exalted: And whosoever places his reliance on Allah, Sufficient is [Allah] for him. For Allah will surely accomplish His purpose. Verily, for all things has Allah appointed a due proportion (Quran, 65:3). I therefore placed full trust in Allah the Exalted. He is sufficient for me and He is the best Disposer of affairs.”

At this point Shaqiq said: “May Allah bless you and grant you success. I looked into the Old Testament, the New Testament, the Zabur and the Quran and have found that the four books revolve around these eight benefits. Whoever works according to them is working according to these four books [3].

[1] Contemplating the Texts is the First Action (www.islamonline.com)

[2] Quran 19:96 (www.ummah.net)

[3] Dear Beloved Son. 17th Counsel: “Companionship” Imam Abu Hamid Al-Ghazali. 2000/1421.

The Muslim Man & The Dog

a by Qaali Mohamed, Student of Salahudin Islamic School

A man is taking a walk in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Suddenly, he sees a little boy being attacked by a pit bull dog. He runs over and starts fighting with the dog. He succeeds in killing the dog and saving the boy's life. A policeman who was watching the scene walks over and says: "You are a hero; tomorrow you can read it all in the newspaper saying: "Brave Minnesotan saves the life of a little boy."

The man replies, "But I am not a Minnesotan!" "Oh, then it will say in the newspaper in the morning: "Your American name' or Brave American saves a little boy's life" the policeman answers. "I am not an American at all" says the man. "Oh, what are you then?" I am a Muslim man and my name is Muhammad. The next day the newspaper says: "A Muslim man kills an innocent American dog."

Dar Al-Hijrah Activities

1. Schools

Part-Time Islamic Schools:

☞ Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Schools currently serve students of all ages. Their curriculum includes memorization of the Holy Qur'an, Islamic Beliefs (Aqeedah), reading and writing Arabic, Islamic manners (Tarbiyah), Islamic history (Seerah), prophet's way of life (Hadith), jurisprudence (Fiqh) and remembrance of Allah (Thikr).

Salahudin Weekend Islamic School—612-298-2031

Al-Ihsan Weekend Islamic School—612-817-3394

Iqra Night High School:

☞ Dar Al-Hijrah also provides an adult high school in partnership with Volunteers of America where students can earn a regular high school diploma. 612-375-0700 / <http://voahs.org/>

2. Counseling Office:

Dar Al-Hirah offers a counseling office where the imam provides counseling on social issues such as marriage, divorce, and conflict resolution. The imam will extensively go over with the family about their issues, and he will provide a solution that is reasonable for both parties.

3. Youth Center:

Dar Al-Hijrah Youth Council shall welcome any Muslim youth in the state of Minnesota to enhance their religion and culture, expand their educational level, strengthen between families and youth ties, establish non-violent methods for peace, institute integrity, and work for better future.

4. Salahudin Student Union:

SSU is a student organization that helps youth get more involved in Islamic activities. Its mission statement is "to get Muslim youths involved in the community and keep their Islamic values." SSU is a branch of Dar Al-Hijrah Youth Council that deals with younger students. It works closely with students in elementary and middle, operates bimonthly journal, holds Islamic events and workshops, and producing documentaries regarding issues in our society.

5. Health Screening Center:

Dar Al-Hijrah Health Screening Service (DAHSS) is a free and accessible health service provided by Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Civic Center for the community in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Health, where members of the community can check their blood pressure, diabetes, weight, height, and child and teen checkups.

6. Salahudin Journal:

This journal is published by Salahudin Student Union; a group of youths from Salahudin Weekend Islamic School. It is produced bi-monthly, and this journal is part of the community that promotes education and knowledge. Every issue discusses about current affairs in the community, Islam, health, science, education, literature, entertainment, and many more.